Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-002
Tuesday
5 January 1993

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Receives Iraqi Message on POW's

NC3112161592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has received a message from Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf in reply to a letter handed to him by Dr. Rashid Idris, the personal envoy of the secretary general, during his visit to Iraq.

A statement by the Arab League Secretariat said the Iraqi authorities informed Dr. Rashid Idris that Iraq welcomes cooperation with the Arab League to end the issue of the missing Kuwaitis within an Arab framework and with a view to clearing the Arab air and finding a final solution to the human tragedies resulting from this.

The statement says the secretary general's envoy met during his visit to Iraq with 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council; Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz; Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf; and Health Minister Umid Midhat Mubarak.

Tunisian President To Assume AMU Chairmanship

LD3112175792 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Beginning 1 January 1993, [Tunisian] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali assumes the chairmanship of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], in accordance with a communique issued today in Rabat by the AMU General Secretariat. It states:

In accordance with the provisions of the treaty setting up the AMU, and taking into consideration the decision of the Union's Presidency Council at its fifth regular session in Nouakchott, and within the framework of the rotation of the heads of state of member countries in assuming the chairmanship of the Union's Presidency Council, the AMU General Secretariat announces that His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of Tunisia, will assume chairmanship of the Union's presidency on 1 January 1993.

GCC Pledges $6.5 Billion for Egypt, Syria

NC0101150793 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 24 Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] Abu-Dhabi—The Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] 13th summit ended yesterday afternoon. Its final communique adopted a firm on Iran, accusing it of breaching "the United Arab Emirates' [UAE] sovereignty and territorial integrity" and adopted a similar stand on Iraq "for not bowing to all Security Council resolutions." On the other hand, the communique affirmed commitment to the Damascus Declaration.

Officials who participated in the summit disclosed that agreement was reached on the "principle" of setting up a $6.5-billion development fund to help Egypt and Syria, although this point was not included in the final communique. Officials who participated in the summit meetings affirmed that the Gulf leaders devised a framework for the development fund.

A Gulf official said the funds endorsed for Egypt and Syria are "just a token of gratitude for our Arab brothers outside the GCC alliance who offered support for us at a crucial phase in the region's history." The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, added that "the GCC leaders, bearing the future in mind, wish to rehabilitate the Egyptian and Syrian economies and seek continued support for the Gulf alliance against any foreign threats."

Although the Gulf official spoke about the aid fund, the summit's final communique did not include this point.

The GCC last year agreed with Egypt and Syria to establish a joint defense system, but the agreement, called the Damascus Declaration, was not implemented for many reasons, including differences over financial matters.

At the beginning of their summit, the Gulf leaders discussed the GCC members' contributions to the development fund on the basis of a $10-billion budget. According to officials, Saudi Arabia expressed readiness to contribute $2.5 billion, Kuwait pledged to procure a similar amount, and the United Arab Emirates $1.5 billion, but other members were hesitant to provide the remaining $3.5 billion. Thus agreement was reached to shrink the budget to $6.5 billion. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid Departs for Meeting on Somalia

NC0201113193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left Cairo this morning for Addis Ababa to attend the preparatory conference for national reconciliation in Somalia, which is due to begin 4 January. The conference will also be attended by UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali and representatives of the OAU, Islamic Conference Organization, and the main Somali warring factions. The conference will attempt to find a formula for reconciliation among the Somali factions.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Address: 'Peace Battle' To Continue

JN0201201693 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1810 GMT 2 Jan 93

["Text" of letter of greetings from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, to the workers of the Palestine Martyrs Works Society, Samid, on its anniversary; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Verily, we have granted thee a manifest victory: That God may forgive thee thy faults of the past and those to follow; fulfill His favor to thee; and guide thee on the straight way, and that God may help thee with powerful help. [koranic verses]

Brother workers of Samid [Palestine Martyrs Works Society], and brother workers of Palestine: Your revolution enters another year of its glorious life to celebrate through you and with you its 29th year. Your people's blessed intifadah entered the door of its sixth year a few weeks ago pounding the walls of the stifling occupation with hands dripping with blood and fists armed with stones, and with a determination to pursue the march of freedom and peace for which the people of Palestine aspire and about which the sanctities and the land of Palestine dream.

Your brave revolution and intifadah enter this new year under the canopy of international changes within whose framework the slogans of freedom, human rights, democracy, and the peoples' right to self-determination are being more and more enhanced. However, these glorious slogans continue to clash with the continued bias on the side of tyranny, occupation, and aggression which threatens the credibility of the so-called new world order and encourages the aggressor to pursue his evil deeds and aggression, relying on the superpower which infuses in it the ability to become more intransigent, and to commit violations without fear of punishment. We are confident that the time has come for the United Nations to carry out its positive and effective role of settling the crisis and returning rights to those who have a claim to them, and also to restore one's confidence in the international body's ability to settle all the problems that obstruct the course of world peace.

Our faith in your revolution's ability to continue, in the ability of the blessed popular intifadah in our occupied Palestinian land to renew itself and to be creative, and in the ability of the pure Palestinian blood to be set on fire at any moement makes us reaffirm that our primary and only wager is on our great people, the people who have launched the revolution and the intifadah, the upholder of their banners, principles, and objectives of liberation, and national independence. The siege that is still imposed on your people, revolution, and brave intifadah will only be a summer cloud in the atmosphere of your Arab nation in spite of the wound that this causes and the pain that the masses of the intifadah feel deep in their hearts, and the difficulties that your establishments and your institutions experience, difficulties we have been experiencing over the past 30 months.

Your Arab nation is required now more than ever before to restore cohesion among its ranks; to rise above wounds; and to extend to our people, our revolution, and our blessed intifadah due support and backing, particularly in these fateful, serious, and delicate circumstances, which require the concerted efforts of all.

O brothers Samid workers; O brothers Palestinian workers: Proceeding from our faith in the Almighty God; because we put our trust in God; and out of our self-confidence, as well as the trust we have placed in you, in your people, in your revolution, and in your intifadah, we will show no reluctance in waging the battle of peace, deeming it one of our battles on the basis of commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of trading land for peace. This reflects our certain belief that we are waging one of national battles in another arena, which has different rules—a battle that has the same objectives sought through the use of bullets, stones, poems, grains, and industrial products. By this, we mean the extrication of our Palestinian people's inalienable legitimate national rights, foremost among which being their right to repatriation, to self-determination, and to independent Palestinian statehood on Palestinian soil, with holy Jerusalem as the capital of this independent state.

This battle of ours, the peace battle, is not our only option. This is because all our options are open. Furthermore, alternatives will be pursued if this battle fails to grant us the peace we desire and aspire to. Our national objectives and purposes are well known and clear. We will not back down on them, nor will we abandon our Palestinian people's inalienable national rights. There will be no retreat in our position regarding holy Jerusalem, the first qiblah and the third holiest shrine, nor will there be an abandonment of our rights to holy Jerusalem. This is because holy Jerusalem is at the heart of the conflict. Moreover, holy Jerusalem will be the capital of our independent Palestinian state, particularly since it has an immense spiritual, cultural, and national significance.

We decided to join the peace process, peace being our goal and message. It was in our land in Palestine that the messages of peace orginiated—the messages preached by prophets. We Palestinians are grandchildren of the messengers of peace and nurturers of the olive tree whose green leaves spread across our good earth—and which we will never hesitate to turn into weapons that will rain upon our enemies.

Despite the iniquitous terms and the special Arab, regional, and world conditions under which the peace process was launched, the PLO and the people of the intifadah engaged in a battle of peace, armed with the faith and consciousness and capability of our people to absorb political changes. We placed our bet on our people's fighting spirit and their availability for sacrifice and generosity under all kinds of circumstances. We believed that these conditions would change as long as we stuck to our rights and kept up our struggle on all political, military, and media, economic, and cultural fronts. The peace process is traveling down a bumpy road, and there is the possibility of it hitting a dead end thanks to Israel's inflexibility and its oppressive practices of killings, incarceration, and detentions—including the latest mass expulsion in breach of all international laws and conventions. The peace process

was launched under unfavorable conditions. In the meantime, Israel has been encouraged by the U.S. bias as was visible in the loan guarantees and a sustained military support to ensure its military edge in the region. Israel has also been pursuing a relentless settlement drive in our occupied land, thus creating a formidable obstacle to a just and durable peace in the region, and putting the entire peace process at risk. However, our people will hardly be intimidated by the fact that the negotiations have reached a dead end, since they have other options, and the negotiating table does not do away with the bullet or the stone.

Brother workers in all places of Palestine: For one year to pass without attaining any tangible progress in the negotiations in no way means that our cause still revolves in a vicious circle. The convoys of the revolution's martyrs, the intifadah martyrs continue to light the way for future generations, affirming that the Palestinian action on the road to liberation and independence and in all fields ensures that the cause remains alive and growing and that there is no going back on the attainment of our Palestinian people's political national rights no matter how arduous and dark the road, and no matter how many the sacrifices.

In these critical moments of our history, we are in dire need of alertness and action without harboring false dreams that lead to perdition, or apprehensions that lead to paralysis and impotence. The latent potentials in ourselves and in our people remain strong and cannot be squandered by illusions or fears.

Brother Palestinian workers, wherever you may be: Your role of safeguarding our dreams stems from your creative ability for constant work and production, and from your closing ranks around your patient and militant people, who are struggling on all fronts.

Brothers, I look forward to your unique militant role in the various stages of our struggle. You have accumulated through the years of the revolution a vast heritage of experience, and bountiful offerings, and presented one accomplishment after the other, whether in or outside the occupied territories. Our revolution can take pride in the fact that you have built for it, and from within it, the first productive institution, the Samid institution whose role has not been confined to only work and production but has gone on to that of cooperation with the PLO Economic Department to study the situation and economic needs of our people in our occupied Palestinian land and to prepare development programs and plans for every stage of the Palestinian national struggle, giving priority to the program of national steadfastness, and the program of supporting and establishing the national insitutions that replace the occupation's institutions in all the economic sectors, not to mention the economic and social program establishing the independent Palestinian state, and studying its economic requirements.

This stage requires you to make more efforts and achieve more cohesion to support our people's steadfastness and to convey a precise and clear picture of their economic and social situation resulting from the Israeli policies and practices and the financial and economic blockade they are experiencing.

Greeting to you, O Palestine's workers, on the anniversary of your revolution and the establishment of Samid. Greeting to steadfastness, firmness, and work. You are building, along with all your brothers and through the waves of the blessed intifadah, the pillars and economic bases of our independent Palestinian state with all your productive and creative energies. Greeting to you, O workers of the brave intifadah behind your ramparts of work and production in the arenas of the daily confrontation, which you are carrying out along with your people's generations, factions, and classes to secure a dawn for your nation, people, and history. Greeting to our wounded workers, who are carrying the medals of glory on their bodies and eyes. Greeting to our captive workers in the prisons and cells of the occupation, who are paying the tax of freedom on the sons of your people and who hear the song of the stone behind the walls.

We pledge to you all that our people's just struggle will continue and that our blessed intifadah will continue wave after wave under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, until the hateful occupation is defeated and our people regain their inalienable national rights and exercise their full sovereignty on their land, foremost of which is their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their land, with holy Jerusalem as its capital. And we wished to be gracious to those who were being depressed in the land, to make them leaders and make them heirs, to establish a firm place for them in the land. [Koranic verse] A revolution until victory.

Further on PLO-Hamas Meetings Held in Khartoum

Hamas Representative Interviewed

PM3112142592 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Dec 92 p 5

[Interview with Muhammad Nazzal, representative of Hamas in Jordan and official spokesman of Hamas delegation to talks with Palestinian leadership in Tunis, by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Qulaybi] How does [the Islamic Resistance Movement] Hamas view its first meeting with the Palestinian leadership in Tunis, and what is your position on the question of participation in the PLO institutions?

[Nazzal] We came to Tunis in response to an official invitation extended to Hamas by Yasir 'Arafat. In our view, the current circumstances represent a new phase which could be exploited to develop the Palestinian position and the confrontation with the enemy.

As the various Israeli political forces have united against the Palestinians, we believe that a unified stance on the issue of the deportees is necessary. That is why we decided to come to Tunis. On the question of Hamas participation in the PLO institutions, we, in principle, have no reservations but we have had reservations about the PLO's political line, structure, and decisionmaking in the sense that they do not represent all sectors of the Palestinian people.

[Al-Qulaybi] But you seem to be making conditions for such participation. Do these conditions still stand or not?

[Nazzal] The PLO is a national front framework which is supposed to include all the forces representing the various sectors of the Palestinian people. We believe that the Palestine National Council [PNC] reflects, in its representation, a major trend favoring a certain political line. That is why we believe that Palestinian popular elections are the ideal way to elect a new PNC, taking into consideration the new changes in the Palestinian arena. We in Hamas refuse to be part of a political cover for promoting a certain political line which, we believe, runs contrary to the wishes of the Palestinian people.

As regards the proportion Hamas proposed for joining the PNC, that was based on the elections held in recent years when Hamas won not less than 40 percent of the vote. At any rate, we are willing to hold expanded talks on this matter. Whoever thinks that percentage is exaggerated should submit a scientific criticism supported by accurate statistical data to confirm his position.

[Al-Qulaybi] We may interpret your words to mean that Hamas is willing to reconsider that proportion.

[Nazzal] When we say that we are willing to hold expanded talks on the question of the proportion, we neither mean insistence nor concession. What we mean is that a dialogue based on objective and scientific foundations is the sure way of achieving agreement. Insistence on finalized positions means closing the door to the search common denominators.

[Al-Qulaybi] But do you think that it is possible to hold PNC elections in the occupied territory and in the diaspora states?

[Nazzal] We called for elections three years ago, and others did so even before that, but we did not feel that the issue was taken seriously. We cannot answer for the Arab states as to whether elections are possible, but we must try; and if that proves impossible then we could search for formulas and measures that would ensure rebuilding the PLO on new foundations representing all political and social sectors of the Palestinian people.

[Al-Qulaybi] Would coordination between your movement and the PLO be possible if no agreement is reached regarding participation in the PLO institutions?

[Nazzal] We have not closed the door to any cooperation or coordination that would serve our cause and people. Therefore, our not joining the PLO would not mean closing the door to cooperation, but it would be unacceptable to us if such cooperation was geared to serving the political objectives of the other party. We want cooperation on clear and specific foundations.

[Al-Qulaybi] Are you at present willing to cooperate with the PLO on the issue of the peace process and the current negotiations?

[Nazzal] We cooperate on what we agree upon. The issue of a political settlement is a point of disagreement, not a point of agreement. We cannot therefore under any circumstance agree to be a part of or party to the current political settlement and will resist by all possible and available means.

[Al-Qulaybi] What do you mean by possible and available means?

[Nazzal] At the Palestinian level, our means will be democratic and peaceful, confined to alerting our people to the danger of such a settlement and working for a unified Palestinian stand against it. On the other hand, we will escalate the intifadah and the armed struggle. In other words we will escalate the confrontation with the Zionist enemy. We believe that the recent Hamas military operations marked the beginning of that escalation.

[Al-Qulaybi] There are those who maintain that Iran is the party driving you in that intransigent direction. Is that true?

[Nazzal] First of all, we are not the only party which rejects the current political settlement. There are other parties within the PLO which reject it. If Iran is behind us then who is behind the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], the National Salvation Front factions, the Popular Struggle [Front] and the Palestine Liberation Front?

Furthermore, our position on the political settlement took shape before our relations with Iran. It would be inaccurate to say that the Palestinians are in favor of such a settlement. On the contrary, we believe that the majority of the Palestinians are against the current political settlement.

At any rate, the recent Hamas operations have shown that all the Palestinian people are against the political settlement because they all sympathized with these operations.

[Al-Qulaybi] But such sympathy is natural and cannot be regarded as the only criterion.

[Nazzal] It is true that the sympathy was natural and spontaneous, but there were those who saw the killing of the Israeli soldier as a violation of human rights. Yasir 'Arafat told the Israeli paper YEDI'OT AHARONOT that that operation was contrary to Islam, and he called for the arrest and execution of what he called the killers. At the Palestinian leadership's meeting, and before the

arrival of the Hamas delegation, some Palestinian figures objected to and expressed resentment against the operation. That is contrary to the general popular sympathy with the operation.

[Al-Qulaybi] What has the Tunis meeting between the Palestinian leadership and Hamas achieved for the cause of the deportees?

[Nazzal] The Tunis meeting was the first between Hamas and the Palestinian leadership. No positive development regarding the issues raised by Hamas was expected at the meeting. We believe that there is a crisis as far as the way Palestinian decisions are made to prevent the views of the majority from prevailing. The view accepted is usually that of the executive group which controls and monopolizes Palestinian decisions. That is why we believe that the road to tackling this anomaly within the official Palestinian institutions is going to be hard and difficult.

[Al-Qulaybi] What is the latest on the dialogue between Fatah and Hamas?

[Nazzal] There are still several political points of disagreement regarding the political settlement and field matters related to frictions between members of the two organizations or movements in the universities, unions, and prisons. There are media campaigns casting doubt and making accusations.

[Al-Qulaybi] Fatah accuses your movement of killing its members?

[Nazzal] Hamas has not killed a single Palestine to date. If there have been such cases, then they should be specified; but if the reference is to the killing of agents, then that is a point of agreement even with Fatah, which is still doing it and in a bigger way than Hamas.

So, what is being said about Hamas killing Palestinians is not true but is part of the media campaign against Hamas, which is in third place after Fatah and the Popular Front in the killing of agents.

[Al-Qulaybi] How do you assess Hamas's relations with Tehran?

[Nazzal] They are political relations in the context of Hamas's policy of opening channels of contacts to seek political, informational, and moral support for the Palestinian cause. The claims about agreements with the Iranian Government are unfounded fabrications.

(Here Ibrahim Ghawshah [a Hamas spokesman] intervened to say that it was the PLO which fabricated the alleged agreement between Hamas and Iran.)

[Al-Qulaybi] In the event of agreement on administrative self-rule, would you divert your confrontation from the Israeli enemy to the Palestinian side?

[Nazzal] We insist on confronting the enemy, not the Palestinian people. We will avoid any confrontation with sons of our people as much as possible, and we will intensify the confrontation against the enemy. That would be our answer to self-rule.

Agreements Reportedly Reached

NC0401220493 Paris AFP in English 2120 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, Dec 4 (AFP) - The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] agreed here Monday to step up the armed struggle against Israel, but the Muslim fundamentalist group refused to join the PLO.

Hamas "hasn't reached any agreement" on joining the PLO because the latter recognizes Israel and supports peace talks with Israel, Ibrahim Ghawshah, spokesman for the fundamentalists, said in the Sudanese capital. But the PLO and Hamas, traditional rivals for leadership of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, agreed on "a number of joint frameworks and committees to effect coordination and upgrading the armed struggle," Sudan's Islamic leader, Hasan al-Turabi, said.

They also agreed to "unify foreign relations within the PLO," said al-Turabi, under whose auspices the meeting of Hamas, which means Islamic Resistance Movement, and the main PLO Fatah faction was held. The fundamentalists want an Islamic state over all the former British mandate of Palestine and have called on the PLO to order an end to Palestinian participation in the peace talks.

"We think these talks split the Palestinian people," Ghawshah said. He said his movement's joining the PLO depended on direct elections to the Palestine National Council (PLO parliament in exile) or an agreement on the representation by quota of key Palestinian groups.

Fatah and Hamas began a rapprochement after Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to a no-man's land in south Lebanon for having links to Hamas and other fundamentalist groups. [passage omitted]

Official on Outcome of Summit

JN0501091293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Jan 93 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Excerpt] Amman—Reconciliation talks between Fatah and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, concluded in Khartoum Monday with an initial agreement to cooperate on inter-Palestinian issues and the formation of joint committees despite continued disagreement over Hamas representation in the Palestine National Council (PNC) and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) refusal to order the Palestinian negotiating team to withdraw from peace talks with Israel.

"We had six points on our agenda and we came up with three committees to address our points of common interest," Ibrahim Ghawshah told the JORDAN TIMES during a telephone conversation after the talks concluded Monday.

"We agreed to cooperate on the issue of expellees, inter-Palestinian politics (specifically Hamas-Fatah) and intifadah politics," said Mr. Ghawshah, adding that Fatah-Hamas committees had been formed to deal with the three issues.

But Fatah and Hamas failed to come to an agreement on Hamas representation in the PNC. "Our position has not changed and neither has that of Fatah," Mr. Ghawshah said.

Hamas, an organisation officially formed in 1988, is not a member of the PNC. About 18 months ago neogtiations began between the Islamic group and the PLO on Hamas joining the PNC.

The PLO has offered Hamas 18 seats on the 483-member council. Hamas wants popular elections or 40 per cent of the seats.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat attended the three days of talks in Khartoum. Fatah Central Committee member Salim al-Za'nun led the Fatah delegation while Damascus-based Musa Abu-Marzuq headed the Hamas group. Sudan's Hasan al-Turabi chaired the talks.

Mr. Ghawshah, who is the Amman-based spokesman for Hamas, said that while at this round of talks "numbers (of the PNC seats) were not mentioned we are asking for democratic representation."

But disagreement on the issue of representation did not seem to mar the talks, which Mr. Ghawshah described as "honest" and "straight forward."

"We talked about the expellees, our joining the PNC, coordination on intifadah-related issues, national unity, the struggle to end Israeli occupation and the continuation of the Hamas-Fatah dialogue," Mr. Ghawshah said.

Coordination between the two groups, he said, was a "sort of breakthrough." Supporters of Fatah and Hamas fought fierce battles in Gaza and Nabulus last summer and several people had died as a result of the fighting.

Hamas's willingness to continue the military struggle against Israel has won suport among many Palestinians who see no change in Israeli policies towards the people living under its occupation. [passage omitted]

Hamas Calls For Continued Confrontation

JN0401130393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] One day after the death of the member of the Israeli Shin Bet intelligence service in West Jerusalem, the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas issued a statement today affirming that the Israeli government understands only the language of bayonets and that the jihad against the Israeli soldiers and border guards is legitimate and acknowledged by all norms and values and is recognized by the UN charter.

The Hamas statement, which does not mention the death of the Shin Bet operative, calls for maintaining daily confrontation throughout this month in protest against Israel's violations, for a general strike on 9 January, the beginning of the 62d month of the intifadah, and proclaimed 17 January as a day of solidarity with the deportees and the Palestinian detainees.

Hamas called on the UN Security Council to seriously work for the implementation of Resoluton 799 on the return of the Palestinians which Israel had expelled to Lebanon and to protect them and the Palestinian people from the Israeli occupation measures.

The Hamas statement also criticized what it calls the weakness of the Arab parties participating in the negotiations with Israel and reiterated its call to them to withdraw from these negotiations.

Statement Issued by 10 Palestinian Forces

JN0401211693 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Jan 93

["Political statement issued by the 10 Palestinian forces," date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The central commands of the 10 Palestinian forces [not further identified] have held an extraordinary meeting during which they discussed the latest political developments related to the Palestine question, especially the deportees issue. In this regard, the 10 forces adopted a set of measures and decisions which would enhance the deportees' steadfastness as they relentlessly struggle to return to their homeland. Expressing pride in the steadfastness of the deportees and their adherence to the right to return to the homeland—a right that is guaranteed by international norms and human rights conventions, including the Fourth Geneva Convention—the 10 forces strongly denounce the indifference of the United Nations and the UN Security Council toward the Zionist entity's defiance of Resolution 799 providing for the return of the deportees. This is despite the fact that the deportees are kept in an inhuman situation in the open in the face of challenges of nature and extreme cold which could cause them sickness and death in view of the lack of water, food, heating, and medicine.

Greeting and thanking all parties, forces, and personalities that showed solidarity with the deportees and exerted efforts to secure their return, the 10 Palestinian forces particularly greet and thank the Lebanese official and popular stand. They appeal to the Lebanese Government and the fraternal Lebanese people—the people of martyrs, the people of the valiant nationalist and Islamic resistance—to continue to stick to the same

position to counter the various campaigns of pressure aimed at extricating the Zionist entity from its impasse. There will be no retreat from the position demanding the return of the deportees to their homeland and demanding the enemy's compliance with Resolution 799. Going ahead with this steadfastness further exposes the enemy's racism and puts the credibility of the Security Council, the United Nations, and the U.S. Administration to the test. This especially since the U.S. Administration has always bragged about human rights and, to some extent, managed to manipulate these international establishments in the service of its interests and the protection of the Zionist military barracks and its aggressive, racist, expansionist policy. This administration has also adopted double standard with regard to all pertains to our nation and its fateful issues.

The conferees also discussed the results of the recent meetings in Tunis, in which some nationalist and Islamic forces opposing destructive solutions and the conspiracy of the self-rule took part. They have strongly condemned the Tunis [PLO] leadership's indifference toward national unity and national comprehensive dialogue, and its unconcern about closing ranks, especially in view of the deportation issue, and after it has been tangibly proved to it that this destructive approach has reached a dead end. Regrettably, instead of declaring withdrawal from the humiliating negotiations and embarking on a comprehensive national dialogue, which constitutes leverage for all Arab and nationalist forces, the Tunis leadership and the Madrid-Washington team affirmed insistence on the destructive option. Some suspect voices have been heard calling for separating the question of continuing negotiations from the return of the deportees.

In light of this continued unpatriotic and irresponsible policy, the 10 Palestinian forces urge our people's masses inside and outside the occupied territories to close ranks, bolster their unity, promote national vigilance, and expose and foil this policy, which aims to destroy our people, their cause, and the PLO as a political entity and a great national achievement.

They also call for continuing the brave intifadah, making it more effective, and stepping its popular and qualitative activity, especially in the face of the maneuvering and misleading calls by terrorist Rabin and his racist government—calls which aim to stop the brave intifadah, the most effective weapon in our people's hands, in the face of all those plotting against our people's cause, rights, identity, and national unity.

In this context, the 10 forces greet our people's masses, who have been suffering under occupation since 1948, for their move and their readiness to share their brothers' pains in Jerusalem, the Palestinian West Bank, and Gaza Strip. This proves the unity of our people's struggle, territorial integrity, identity, and national rights.

In light of the overall dangers surrounding our people's cause, the 10 Palestinian forces have taken a series of measures and decisions pertaining to the deportees' issue in order to strengthen their steadfastness, including the formation of committees of solidarity with their issue at the national, pan-Arab, and Islamic levels,and to support their just demand for returning to their homeland and families.

The conferees also stressed the need to promote the 10 forces' joint militant action to step up all forms of struggle, foremost of which is the armed struggle, to foil the liquidatory solution and the administrative self-rule conspiracy, and to save the national cause from the hands of those who are pursuing the destructive policy. Let us struggle and launch a large-scale solidarity campaign to enable the deportees to return to their homeland and their families. Glory and victory for the brave intifadah and eternity for the martyrs.

[Signed] The 10 Palestinian forces

Delegation Members on Invitation To Meet Rabin

TA3112162092 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 31 Dec 92 pp 1, 15

[By Rashid Hilal]

[Text] Ramallah—Quds Press—Sources in Jerusalem close to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks have said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's invitation for them to meet with him and discuss the peace process is an Israeli attempt to breach the Palestinian position. That position has unanimously called for "suspending" the talks until the 415 Palestinian deportees are returned. The deportees are in their second week in no man's land in south Lebanon.

In a statement to Quds Press, those sources stressed that the Israeli invitation came in the wake of the Palestinian leadership's meeting in Tunis, attended by all Palestinian parties, including a high-ranking delegation representing Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. That meeting made the Israeli leadership apprehensive of the fact that the developments of the deportees' crisis could lead to unifying the Palestinian position, something which Israel does not wish to happen.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the chief Palestinian negotiator, has said that the delegation's members cannot meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin because of the deportations. 'Abd-al-Shafi added that this decision represents a violation of the principles of law and human rights.

'Abd-al-Shafi stressed that the refusal to accept the invitation will remain in effect due to the Israeli Government's intransigence and its insistence on the deportation decision. It is worth noting that this is the second time that Rabin has invited the Palestinian negotiators to meet with him.

While Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation's steering committee, has denied receiving any invitation to meet the Israeli prime minister, Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, told Quds Press that the time now is "inappropriate" for such a meeting. Al-Khatib added that the escalation of Israeli measures—especially the deportation of the Palestinians—followed by the killing of 13 Palestinians, in addition to lack of progress in the negotiations, all of this bolsters our decision not to meet [Rabin]. Al-Khatib stressed that the meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin should not be with the negotiating delegation's members but on a higher level, specifically with the PLO leadership.

Those sources close to the Palestinian negotiating delegation said that a meeting of this kind might take place if Israel returns the Palestinian deportees to their homes. This, however, seems improbable in view of the intransigence shown by Rabin and his government.

Alleged Deal on Deportees Denied

TA0401140093 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 4 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] AL-MANAR has learned that neutral parties in the international arena are engaged in secret and intensive activity to conduct an exchange operation between hundreds of deportees and the bodies of Israeli soldiers. Informed sources have told AL-MANAR that the PLO is holding the bodies of Israeli soldiers and has the ability to prove this, while Lebanese parties hold information about the Israeli pilot Arad. It has been learned that the PLO has expressed its readiness to conclude a swap according to which more than 500 deportees will be returned to the occupied territories and 200 detainees will be released from Israeli jails. The sources cited by AL-MANAR add that the neutral parties that have made this proposal will convey the proposal to the Israeli Government and that they will play the role of an intermediary in order to realize this deal.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 4 January reports: "The East Jerusalem newspaper AL-MANAR reports that international elements have proposed a deal in which the PLO and Lebanon would return the bodies of IDF soldiers to Israel, and in exchange Israel would return the deportees and release 200 prisoners. According to the newspaper, the PLO has expressed its approval, and the international elements have offered to mediate. Israeli sources told our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus that this report is totally unfounded."]

Envoy in Cairo: Resolution 799 'Only' Solution

NC0201163093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah has affirmed that the essence of the issue of the Palestinian deportees is to return them to their country and homeland, not just provide them with supplies, as Israel suggests to international public opinion.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, al-Qidrah said that the only acceptable solution to the issue of the deportees is to implement Security Council Resolution 799, which asks Israel to return the deportees quickly and peacefully to their homes. Any other solutions are rejected because they contradict international legitimacy and human rights conventions.

He added that the deportees are now living under harsh conditions and Israel alone is responsible for their lives.

Affiliation With Iranian Intelligence Denied

JN0401080993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Jan 93 pp 1, 18

[Text] The Islamic Jihad-Bayt al-Maqdis movement has denied that it is a satellite of Iranian intelligence.

Commenting on Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's statement that the Islamic Jihad belongs to Iranian intelligence, the movement said the Palestinian president "knows that our movement has no distinguished relations or contacts with any Iranian quarter, unless he means the breakaways from the Jihad movement, represented by Fathi al-Shiqaqi."

The Palestinian News Agency quoted President 'Arafat as saying yesterday that in his statement to the French magazine L'EXPRESS he was referring to Fathi al-Shiqaqi and not the Jihad movement.

The agency said the question directed to the Palestinian president was concerning al-Shiqaqi and his response referred to the same person and not the Jihad movement as was attributed to him.

Egypt

Government Welcomes U.S.-Russian START II Agreement

NC0201111793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0913 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Egypt has welcomed the agreement reached between the United States and Russia on strategic nuclear weapons reduction.

In a statement he made today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa affirmed that this important event constitutes a victory for peace in the world and an important step toward eliminating the world's weapons of mass destruction. It is consistent with the policy advocated by Egypt for the establishment of a more secure and stable world, he said.

Musa extended his congratulations to the U.S. and Russian Governments for this accomplishment, which demanded intensive efforts and difficult negotiations.

It is worth mentioning that U.S. President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin will sign the strategic nuclear weapons reduction treaty, known as START 2, in Moscow today. The treaty calls for the reduction of these weapons by both sides to two-thirds.

Foreign Ministry Makes Statement

NC0401103193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0921 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt has welcomed the signing of the START II treaty by the United States and the Russian Federation and praised the efforts made to achieve it.

A Foreign Ministry statement today said that the aims and intentions of this treaty harmonize with the stable Egyptian policy that supports international peace and security to create a more secure and stable world free of all weapons of mass destruction.

The statement described the treaty as an important additional step and emphasized the need to bolster it by other steps to eliminate the dangers of nuclear arms and achieve total disarmament.

The Foreign Ministry's statement expressed hope that this treaty, which seeks to reduce international nuclear weapons, will boost efforts to disarm the Middle East.

The statement added that Egypt hopes that this step will promote security and stability in all regions, particularly those that have suffered numerous wars.

The Foreign Ministry statement said Egypt congratulates the United States and the Russian Federation on this achievement, which marks the beginning of a new era of disarmament and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mubarak, al-Qadhdhafi Discuss Issues on Phone

NC3112201692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1912 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, talked on the telephone tonight. During the telephone call, they exchanged views on developments in the Middle East and various issues of common concern to their countries.

Second Telephone Conversation

NC0401125793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1243 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, at noon today.

The two Arab leaders discussed several current Arab and international issues.

Consultative Council on 'Growing Concern' About Sudan

NC0501130893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0951 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—The Consultative Council's Arab, Foreign, and National Security Affairs Committee has voiced growing concern over Sudan's escalation of the situation. It expressed surprise over Sudan's decisions and moves, because no one imagined that things would reach such a point between two fraternal peoples or that temporary differences would prompt the Sudanese Government to harm, in such an unprecedented manner, eternal and well-established relations that never were shaken in their long history, even when there was serious tension.

This came in a statement issued by the committee at the end of its meeting under Chairman Dr. Mufid Shihab. The statement says that the latest Sudanese decisions and moves are irresponsible and will not harm Egypt as much as they will harm the Sudanese state and its Arab and international relations.

The statement asserts that Egyptian education mission schools in Sudan played a significant role in strengthening the historic bonds between the two peoples, and that no Sudanese Government thought to encroach upon those schools, because they represent a common Egyptian-Sudanese interest.

The statement stresses that the border dispute over Hala'ib was heading toward a solution through the joint committee, which was preparing for its third meeting in Khartoum. Developments prove that the Sudanese regime seeks to further deteriorate relations and to increase tension, which calls for an acceptable and understandable explanation by the Sudanese Government.

During their discussions, committee members explained that the Egyptian forces stationed in southern Egypt have never crossed the international border line between Egypt and Sudan, determined by an internationally recognized 1899 agreement between Egypt and Britain. The Egyptian forces have not gone beyond the Egyptian Hala'ib triangle, they emphasized.

The committee members explained that any decisions or movements such as those made by the Sudanese Government would not affect the historic relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese people and would not draw any Egyptian reaction that might aggravate the current situation. They said Egypt appreciates its responsibilities and knows full well how to respect eternal and firm relations with all Arab peoples.

In their discussions, the committee members stressed that encroachment upon a single inch of dear Egyptian soil could not be accepted, and that the genuine people of Egypt are very eager to take care of their Sudanese brothers.

'Provocations' Denounced

NC0401143393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—In their editorials today, AL-AKHBAR and AL-WAFD denounce escalating provocations and fabricated fights against Egypt by the Sudanese regime, saying that issues relating to Egypt's sovereignty and national security cannot be relinquished.

AL-AKHBAR wonders how far the Sudanese regime will go in its mock battles against Egypt and what the government of al-Bashir and al-Turabi has in mind when it carries out all these provocative acts.

The Sudanese regime is wrong if it believes it can use the geographic situation, historic relations, and the ancient bonds between Egypt and Sudan to create problems that only exist in its sick imagination, AL-AKHBAR says.

The paper expresses astonishment over the recent Sudanese decision on the Egyptian educational mission in Sudan and the timing of the move. It says the Sudanese people know the educational service Egypt still provides for the Sudanese in Sudan and Egypt, proceeding primarily from its belief that the Sudanese are brothers.

If the al-Bashir-al-Turabi government is engaged in these practices on behalf of other quarters in return for a handful of dollars, the day will come when it receives severe punishment from its people before anybody else, AL-AKHBAR says.

For its part, AL-WAFD stresses that there can be no tolerance or relinquishing rights when it comes to issues affecting Egypt's sovereignty and national security. It says Egypt, which fought a fierce battle against Israel over 1 km of land in Tabah, cannot be lenient over 16,000 square km in Hala'ib.

AL-WAFD says the military government in Khartoum sought a battle against the government and people of Egypt. It began by assigning a Canadian company to explore for oil in Hala'ib, giving itself the right to dispose of something it did not own. The Sudanese Government certainly knew Egypt's silence would not last long.

The paper stresses that the Khartoum rulers should not try to exploit the special relations between the two peoples of the Nile Valley, because the issue ultimately concerns land, honor, dignity, and sovereignty.

We tell those who poison relations as old as the Nile that Egypt opens its doors to the Sudanese brothers to live and trade without restrictions or conditions, AL-WAFD says. It notes that Egypt exempts the Sudanese from education fees and treats them just like their Egyptian brothers. Because of all these facilities, the paper explains, between 4 and 5 million Sudanese sought refuge in Egypt, fleeing the oppression of the ruling junta or escaping hunger and thirst.

Sudan's Annexation of Schools Decried

NC0501121393 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1058 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—A Foreign Ministry source has stated that annexing Egyptian schools in Sudan to the Sudanese Education Ministry harms the Sudanese people and the eternal relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples, particularly as there are U.S., Vatican, and Indian schools in Sudan whose status has not been altered. The source said that this shows that the Sudanese Government's decision on this matter is part of its recent acts aiming to harm Egyptian-Sudanese ties.

Further Report on Schools

NC0501110393 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Jan 93 p 14

[From "The Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] The regime of al-Turabi-al-Bashir brothers in Sudan cannot be concerned about its people's interest or aware of the relationship among the sons of this people and their brothers in Egypt. If it was, that regime would not have carried out the childish acts through which it seeks to cut the threads, sever the relationship, and blot out an important epoch.

Perhaps the latest of these acts is the decision by al-Turabi—I do not say al-Bashir, because the world knows that his excellency the lieutenant general [al-Bashir] does not move except on orders, directives, and blessing from the man who calls himself leader of the Islamic Front—to annex Egyptian education mission schools in Sudan to the Education Ministry there.

The question is: Have they thought of the decision's potentially harmful effect on our brothers in the south before harming anyone else? Have they considered how much their budget may bear in light of the new situation after Egypt—naturally—stops to spend on teachers, school buildings, laboratories, and various sports, social, and cultural activities? Indisputably, nothing of the kind crossed their minds, exactly the way they confront issues "much bigger than them" and then sit and bite their fingers in regret when it is too late.

Would any sensible man disagree that education is Egypt is superior in form and substance to that in Sudan? The proof is that the secondary school graduate there has no problem in his university education, because he is raised and educated according to Egyptian rules and norms that are firm and sound and developing daily.

Now let us wait and see the result of their faltering policies that are bound to produce generations unable to bear any responsibility in any sector. Regrettably, this may be the aim of al-Turabi's salvation revolution, which is still captive to past ideas, imagining that to govern an ignorant nation is easier than ruling people with plenty of education.

Amid all this, the Sudanese Government rushes to contact the Security Council, trying to exercise terrorism of a different kind against Egypt, wrongly believing that the fanfare might scare Cairo or its people.

We declare publicly and bravely to the Sudanese regime that bows humiliatingly to al-Turabi's will and wish: Egypt is not afraid of being rebuked for what is right; it acts only according to what it believes in. This is true because Egypt is a state of institutions, raising the banners of freedom and democracy for many years, something the government of al-Turabi-al-Bashir brothers regards as an evil act by the devil.

Egypt continues to defend human rights anywhere and does not accept anyone interfering in its affairs, because it does not interfere in others' affairs. But when it smells the shameless odor of treason, Egypt can, by virtue of its resources and potential, "retighten the nuts" to ensure a clean atmosphere.

A final word from me to al-Turabi and al-Bashir: Before doing anything, try to learn what the Sudanese man in the street thinks of you and carefully consider his views and opinion.

It is enough that there is popular consensus on one fact—that the two of you, no one else, are the main cause of the people's oppressive life, those people who suffer from hunger, disease, and destitution without someone to give them a helping hand. This is so because you regrettably compromised your country's ties with the world, except Iran and Iraq, which we all know do much bad talking and few good deeds.

Consultative Council Expresses 'Growing Concern'

NC0501130893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0951 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—The Consultative Council's Arab, Foreign, and National Security Affairs Committee has voiced growing concern over Sudan's escalation of the situation. It said it was surprised by the Sudanese decisions and moves, because no one imagined things would reach such a point between two fraternal peoples or that temporary differences would prompt the Sudanese Government to harm, in such an unprecedented manner, eternal and well-established relations that were never shaken in their long history, even when there was serious tension.

This came in a statement issued by the committee at the end of its meeting under Chairman Dr. Mufid Shihab. The statement says that the latest Sudanese decisions and moves are irresponsible and will not harm Egypt as much as they will harm the Sudanese state and its Arab and international relations.

The statement asserts that Egyptian education mission schools in Sudan played a significant role in strengthening the historic bonds between the two peoples and that no Sudanese government thought to encroach upon those schools, because they represent a common Egyptian-Sudanese interest.

The statement stresses that the border dispute over Hala'ib was heading toward a solution through the joint committee, which was preparing for its third meeting in Khartoum within days. Developments prove the Sudanese regime seeks to further deteriorate relations and increase tension, which calls for an acceptable and understandable explanation by the Sudanese Government.

During their discussions, committee members explained that the Egyptian forces stationed in southern Egypt have never crossed the international border line between Egypt and Sudan determined by an internationally recognized 1899 agreement between Egypt and Britain. The Egyptian forces have not gone beyond the Egyptian Hala'ib triangle, they emphasized.

The committee members explained that any decisions or movements such as those made by the Sudanese Government would not affect the historic relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese people and would not draw any Egyptian reaction that might aggravate the current situation. They said Egypt appreciates its responsibilities and knows full well how to respect eternal and firm relations with all Arab peoples.

In their discussions, the committee members stressed that encroachment upon a single inch of dear Egyptian soil could not be accepted and that the genuine people of Egypt are very eager to take care of their Sudanese brothers.

Sudan's UN Complaint Called 'Storm in a Teacup'

NC0501081793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0623 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH describes Sudan's complaint to the Security Council over Hala'ib as "a storm in a teacup" that will only entrench Egypt's sound Arab policy and deepen its eternal relations with the Sudanese people. The paper says Egypt's relations with the people of Sudan will never be determined by a passing regime or erroneous complaint.

In its editorial today, the paper reviews President Husni Mubarak's efforts since he assumed power, when Egypt's relations with its sisterly Arab countries were frozen, paralyzed. It notes that Egypt restored its Arab relations and status and performed its pioneering role in defending Arab rights and protecting Arab lands.

The paper points to President Mubarak's successful mediation between Saudi Arabia and Qatar as a wonderful example of Egypt's Arab policy under President Mubarak.

Contacts With Israel on Deportees Yield 'Nothing Specific'

NC0501120093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1114 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has underlined the importance of finding a solution to the problem of the Palestinian deportees before holding the ninth round of Arab-Israeli negotiations on 20 February.

He said Egypt's contacts with Israel in this regard are continuing but nothing specific has been reached so far.

Musa made the statement following the expanded meeting President Mubarak held with the prime minister and a number of ministers today.

On the situation in Somalia, the foreign minister said the Egyptian presence there is part of the international role. He said that the next move must be a national reconciliation in the country.

On the current reconciliation conference in Addis Ababa, Musa said Egypt is holding contacts with the United Nations and regional organizations participating in the conference.

He said Egypt will in the next period hold contacts on the African level to prepare for the upcoming African summit, which will be held in Cairo in June under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Musa said he will resume his talks with the foreign minister of Luxembourg later today to discuss all issues related to the Middle East and Europe.

He said the foreign minister of Luxembourg reviewed the EC situation and Europe's interest in the Middle East when President Mubarak received him today. The situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina was also discussed, he said.

Editorial on Israel's Stand

NC0101113393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0811 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR says that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's announcement on his willingness to return hundreds of Palestinian deportees to their homes, provided that what he calls "acts of violence" stop, proves his failure as a political leader, because he neither read history nor learned about people's struggle for freedom.

In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR says that had Rabin learned well history's lessons he would have realized that there is only one unchangeable way to achieve real peace; that is, to respond to the lawful demands of the people, who are living under a ruthless occupation.

The paper affirms that the five-year-old intifadah will continue and that the Israeli authorities' deportation, expulsion, and arrest of and violence against Palestinians will not work.

Rabin had the opportunity to prove his sincere will to achieve peace through negotiations with the states whose lands are occupied by Israel. All he offered, however, was bright statements and false promises, the paper says. He might have thought that holding negotiations with Arab delegations was sufficient to end the Palestinian people's revolution to restore their freedom and lawful rights. When this hope failed and the intifadah continued, he resorted to a different approach by expelling Palestinians from their lands and homes, but he was running after a mirage, the paper asserts.

Trade Union Federation Condemns Israel

NC0101111093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—The General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions [GFETU] has reiterated the Egyptian trade unions' refusal to normalize relations with the Histadrut (Israeli National Labor Federation) before the Palestinian issue is resolved, the Palestinian people's full legitimate rights are recognized, including the right to establish a Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem, and all occupied Arab territories are liberated, GFETU Chairman al-Sayyid Rashid announced here today at the end of the GFETU general assembly.

The GFETU general assembly released a political statement condemning Israel's maneuvers and intransigence in the Middle East peace talks and deploring the Israeli barbaric measures against the Palestinians in the occupied territories, as well as the policies of expulsion and collective punishment, the latest example of which was

the deportation of 418 Palestinians into southern Lebanon. It called for the immediate cancellation of the deportation decision. The GFETU general assembly called on the world community to adopt a firm position regarding these practices, which constitute a flagrant violation of human rights and conflict with all international charters and norms. The GFETU general assembly stated that it is time the United Nations makes its presence felt by applying the measures stipulated in chapter seven of its charter on Israel, thus putting an end to the incessant Israeli violations of the principles of international law and restoring the Palestinian people's usurped rights, as recognized in UN Security Council resolutions. [passage omitted]

Tehran's 'Lies, Calumny' About Egypt Deplored

NC0201205293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1840 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Razzaz: "Tehran Continues its Series of Lies and Calumny"]

[Text] One thing no two Iranians can disagree on is that these fraternal Muslim people have lost over 2 million martyrs in the waves of execution and political assassination that started in 1979 and continue to this day. In addition, no one can dispute that the number of those who fled the Iranian hell is 5 million Iranian citizens who managed to escape the hell of Tehran's rulers. All this is happening because Tehran's rulers are gagging the people and preventing them from expressing their opinions freely. Therefore, Tehran radio is trying to find a way out of the crisis confronting Tehran's leaders, who rule the Iranian people with fire and iron. They resort to broadcasting lies and calumnies about those countries that enjoy freedom, democracy, security, and stability.

In the forefront of these countries stands Egypt, which is very proud of its commitment to the democratic course the Egyptian people enjoy through their parliamentary councils. Their free press enjoys the freedom of opinion and counteropinion and their frank and honest media neither exaggerate nor understate issues. Therefore, when the Egyptian people deal with outlaws, they do so out of their interest in protecting their security and stability, securing their rights and gains, and continuing the democratic march that has become the Egyptian people's course and destiny under President Mubarak.

Therefore, the strangest things we hear are the lies and calumnies broadcast on Tehran radio, whose target is the Egypt characterized by security, stability, and democracy; the Egypt that defends freedom; Egypt and its people who besiege the hotbeds of terrorism and outlaws. This last group of people has nothing to do with Islam. Tehran radio's talk about the Muslims besieged by the police forces is confused talk, because we do not know any Muslims who commit crimes or deal with their brothers with violence and terrorism, who target the bread and sources of income of the people in the various tourist sectors, and who tarnish Egypt's reputation and prevent the influx of tourists—something Egypt succeeded in achieving after the international travel agents conference was held last September. Egypt's success in organizing this conference earned great respect and was the talk of the world.

We are surprised at the lies Tehran radio is broadcasting whose objective is Egypt. We respond to these vituperations by saying that Islamic Egypt is the fortress linked to a long history in the past and present of defending Islam and the Muslims. Egypt has its evident stands in this scope. It does not need to defend itself and refute the lies of Tehran radio. Islam should not be used as a means for attack since it is the means for dialogue between states and people. Islam is above being traded with, because any calumny or lie about the clear-cut truth affirming that Egypt is a strong fortress of Islam will fall on deaf ears. Tehran radio is plowing the sea: All its lies and calumnies are clear. The Iranian people themselves are the first to realize this fact, and they know that it is to distract their attention from other things they have been suffering from since 1979.

In the end we tell Tehran radio that lying is prohibited by Islam. The duty of an Islamic radio should not be to divide Islamic ranks with such lies and calumnies. Egypt is above such cheap accusations and will not react to these frenetic campaigns because, in the eyes of the world, Egypt is the Islamic country that defends, maintains, and bolsters the causes of its Islamic world.

Further Commentary

NC0201082893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2110 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Razzaz: "Tehran Continues Campaign of Calumnies and Lies"]

[Text] Again Tehran radio, as one of the trumpets of deception, has broadcast calumnies and lies about Egypt. Regardless of Tehran radio's calumnies and lies, the shining fact in the eyes of all Muslims is that Egypt is the citadel of Islam and has been defending Islamic rights for hundreds of years. Egypt supports the message of Islam and Muslims. It defends the rights of Muslims any place in the world. Egypt supports the rights of the brother Muslim Palestinians. It supports the rights of the brothers in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Somalia, Lebanon, Iraq, Kuwait, and all parts of the Islamic world.

Tehran has twisted facts by claiming that the Egyptian Government is trying to stop the growth of Egyptian Muslims' activities. We ask what is this growth about which Tehran radio speaks of, as if Egypt has lost its Islam? This miserable and false picture with which Tehran radio is trying to describe Egypt is strange and unbelieved by anyone. The whole world knows Egypt's Islamic and cultural role in defending Islam and Muslims.

If Tehran radio speaks about this fact, we wish to correct its wrong concepts. There is no hostility between the government and Islamists. The Egyptian Government is Islamist and defends Islam. Al-Azhar Mosque is in Egypt. There are centers of Islamic calls in Egypt. If there is a growth for defenders of Islam, the Egyptian Government supports all those who defend Islam because Egypt, leadership, government, and people, fully believes in this orthodox religion and defends it.

We want to correct Tehran radio by saying that Islam is innocent of those who hide behind religion and use its robe to break the law, practice violence and terrorism, attack tourist sites to harm Egypt's reputation, commit aggression on its guests, and strike at the Egyptian economy, which has achieved brilliant results in economic reform and liberalization. We tell Tehran radio again that its talk about the growth of Islamists in Egypt is wrong and false.

Muslims do not commit crimes of violence, murder, and theft. Muslims do not act treacherously and are not extremists. As President Mubarak has stated, there are no Islamic movements and there is no Islamic extremism. Islam is not linked to terrorism and crime. Islam is the religion of justice and tolerance. Therefore, Islamic society in Egypt does not commit crimes of murder and violence and does not attack sites and establishments on which the livelihood of the Egyptian people depend, such as the tourist industry, which has achieved record income this year. The terrorists have tried to target these bastions that support the Egyptian economy, but the vigilance of Islamic society in Egypt has been able to face the elements of terrorism and extremism. Hence, we say again to Tehran radio that these elements have no connection with Islam. Our orthodox religion is innocent of these elements because they practice all the sins barred by Islam.

We are astonished by the behavior of Iranian media, which want to wreck all attempts to improve Egyptian-Iranian relations and give new chances in support of this direction. It is clear that the Iranian trumpets of deception are swimming against the current. Whoever swims against the current will inevitably drown.

Arrest of 11 Muslim Brotherhood Members Reported

NC0101164293 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Dec 92 pp 1, 10

[Text] The State Security Investigation Department launched a new campaign of arrests among the ranks of the Muslim Brotherhood Group [jama'at] members in different governorates at dawn on 17 December under the claim of belonging to the Brotherhood organization [tanzim al-ikhwan]!

Those arrested, who number 11, were referred to the State Security Prosecution Department, which decided to remand them in custody for 15 days; that is, until 29 and 30 December [dates as published], pending interrogation. The new detainees are: Haj 'Ashur Sulayman Ghanim and Rajab Muhammad Abu-Zayd from al-Minufiyah; Mahmud Ibrahim Ghanim and Muhsin Mukhtar from Kafr al- Shaykh; Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sayih from Damietta; 'Atif Muhammad Raslan from Cairo; Mamduh Mabruk from al-Minya; Sa'd-al-Din Muhammad Khalifah from al-Suways; Kamil Gharib from Ismailia; and Shaykh Abu-al-Hamad Husayn Rabi' and Baha' 'Abdallah 'Arafah from Sawhaj.

It is worth noting that the case involving the Brotherhood, which started on 5 February 1992 when the Salsabil Company offices were broken into and three of its managers arrested, has become the main source of pressure on the Muslim Brotherhood movement [harakat]. All arrests are being made under this cover. The court today will decide whether to further remand or release [Salsabil Company managers] Engineers Khayrat al-Shatir and Hasan Malik. The third suspect, Tahir 'Abd-al-Mun'im, was released one month ago. The court released Naji 'Arabi [not further identified] on Wednesday [16 December].

Muslim Brotherhood Contacts With Foreign Parties Revealed

NC0101115493 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 21 Dec 92 p 1

[Excerpt] Ahmad Musa reports: Investigations conducted by the higher state security prosecution in the last two days with 14 Muslim Brotherhood members have revealed their involvement in acts punishable by law. The acts include contacting foreign parties and giving foreign news agencies statements and information to create disturbance, incite citizens, and defame Egypt's image abroad through the parties they contacted and to promote the ideologies of the groups that seek to undermine Egyptian security and stability.

Sources in a high-level security department have said they raided the hideouts of the group members in nine governorates and found secret leaflets and papers helpful to the investigations, which the higher state security prosecution launched under the supervision of the first public prosecutor, Counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud.

The sources stated that they have arrested these elements based on information that they had held secret meetings in various places in Cairo after obtaining a prosecution permit containing the names of the wanted men. [passage omitted]

Government Refuses Muslim Brotherhood Request

NC0201095393 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 23 Dec 92 p1

[Text] AL-AHALI has learned from reliable political sources that the Muslim Brotherhood submitted an offer to the government conveyed recently by a former security figure. The offer demonstrated the extent of the

Muslim Brotherhood's domination of the Labor Party and its newspaper. The Muslim Brotherhood offered a bargain to stop the Labor Party and its newspaper from assailing the government in return for the diskettes and computers confiscated by security agencies in a certain security case. The same sources said that the government refused the offer after having realized that the confiscated computers contain the secret internal formations of the Muslim Brotherhood and its international organization.

Specialized parties succeeded in reaching the so-called "access code" of the contents of a number of diskettes and learned the name lists of its members in certain governorates. These sources have linked the arrest of Muslim Brotherhood members each time the "access code" in a diskette was discovered and the current tension between the government and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Over 100 Palestinians Protest 'Detention Without Trial'

NC0101173193 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] More than a 100 Palestinian detainees, locked up at Mazra'at Turah Prison [in Cairo], continue their open strike which started on Friday in protest of their continued detention without trial. The detainees demanded to see Interior Minister 'Abd-al- Halim Musa and Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo.

In a message to the Palestinian ambassador, the detainees pointed out that they had been detained because of their Palestinian identity, while members of the Israeli espionage network [the Misrati family] have been released. They noted that the building in which they are detained had sustained cracks following the earthquake and is about to collapse. The cells are small and they are allowed to drink only once a day. The detainees added that the prison administration prevents them from getting in touch with their families to learn about their relatives' conditions amid the Israeli acts of violence in the occupied territories.

Security Forces Arrest 19 al-Jihad Leaders

NC0101214593 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 23 Dec 92 p 1

[Excerpt] Security forces yesterday dealt a series of successive blows to the hideouts of elements from the al-Jihad group in Cairo, al-Qalyubiyah, and al-Buhayrah and arrested 19 leading figures who previously have been involved in sabotage against citizens, police, and installations in many parts of Imbabah and al-Fayyum.

The security forces succeeded in aborting a plan prepared by some in the grouping aimed at toppling the regime. They also seized a list of names of a number of state officials who were to be assassinated, in accordance with the religious rulings on shedding their blood. The security forces also found in the hideouts seven automatic guns, a storehouse of explosive devices, and 1,500 pieces of live ammunition. [passage omitted]

Jihad 'Extremist Terrorists' Detained

NC0201114793 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1042 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—The Criminal Investigation Department in Bani Suwayf, Ismailia, and North Sinia, in cooperation with the state security investigation, detained 27 extremist terrorists. Among the detainees are escapees from Imbabah who had in their possession large quantities of TNT for use in sabotage operations.

Major General Yusri Shakir, assistant to the interior minister and security director in Bani Suwayf, said that 21 extremists belonging to the Jihad Organization, who fled from Imbabah in al- Gizah and al-Minya Governorate, were arrested. He said the campaign is continuing to hunt down the remaining terrorists. In Ismailia, extremists were arrested trying to carry out subversive acts during celebrations of New Year's Day.

Security agencies in North Sinia detained a farmer with a quantity of TNT. He intended to give the explosive material to extremist members to use in criminal acts. Security organs are continuing their search for the unidentified men who hurled an incendiary bomb at a police vehicle at dawn yesterday.

Explosive Device Thrown at Coptic Church Guards

NC0401124493 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1028 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—An extremist threw an explosive device at the guards of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Dayrut last night and then fled.

The police force provided protection for the area and intensified the search for the extremist.

Libya

Sudanese Deputy Prime Minister Begins Visit

LD0101085593 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 1 Jan (JANA)—Brother [Major-General] al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council, deputy prime minister, and interior minister in sisterly Sudan arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening. [passage omitted]

Brother al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih gave a statement to a JANA correspondent in which he said that his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah falls within the integration framework between the sons of the single Arab people in the

Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan. In his statement, brother al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih praised the depth of existing fraternal relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan.

Meets With Armed Forces Chief

LD0301160493 Tripoli JANA in English 1414 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina al-Nar [Jan.] 3, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Colonel 'Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir [commander-in-chief of armed forces] yesterday met in Tripoli with al-Zubir Muhammad Salih, the vice president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council and deputy prime minister and minister of the interior, who is on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The two sides reviewed the existing relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan and studied necessary ways to consolidate, develop and the completion of complementary steps between the Arab people of the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan.

Present at the meeting were the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity, the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau to Sudan and the Sudanese ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Tripoli Recognises Slovak, Czech Republics

LD0101095893 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0725 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Jan (JANA)—The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation issued a statement announcing the Great Jamahiriyah's recognition of the two new states, the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic. This is the text:

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation welcomes the establishment of the Slovak and Czech Republics as two sovereign states on the basis of their people's free will.

On this occasion, the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation announces the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's recognition of the two new states, and affirms its desire to continue and consolidate good relations and fruitful cooperation with them on the basis of reciprocal respect and mutual interest. The Libyan People's Bureau in Prague will represent the Great Jamahiriyah in the Czech Republic, and will also temporarily represent the Jamahiriyah in the Slovak Republic until the procedures for the opening of a Libyan People's Bureau in Bratislava are completed.

Basic, National Peoples Congresses Issue Statement

LD0301212493 Tripoli JANA in English 1628 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina Al-Nar [January] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The masses of the Basic and National People's Congresses issued a communique, at the end of their rally celebrating the national day of the Sudan and the 28th anniversary of the outbreak of the Palestinian revolution, calling for total Arab unity, liberation of occupied Arab territories, using their national resources and wealth for the benefit of Arabs from the Gulf to the ocean.

The communique stressed that the sacrifices of past generations towards the realisation of the greater Arab state should not be to no avail.

The communique asserted that the Libyan Arab people's steadfastness in the face of the arbitrary coercive measures provides an example and ideal for all freedom loving Arabs in attachment to principles and rejection of capitulation.

It pointed out that the Libyan Arab people was being punished by imperialism for their pan Arabist stances, unionist policies and support for the Palestinian Arab people.

The masses commended in their communique the complementarity steps between the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan expressing the hope that the efforts and civilisational and strategic vision which made the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan one extention and an advanced step on the path of Arab unity will include Egypt so as to realise a huge Arab political and economic power combining human, oil and water resources to create a powerful Arab state with its own influence in the course of events.

The communique called for the need to support the massive popular revolution being led by the angry generation in occupied Palestine so as to settle the conflict with the Zionist enemy and liberate all occupied Arab land.

Morocco

Czech, Slovak Republics To Be Recognized 1 Jan

LD3112162892 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] The Kingdom of Morocco has decided to recognize the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, which both emanate from the former CSFR, as of 1 January 1993.

Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, has conveyed to his Czech and Slovak opposite numbers, in separate letters, the decision of the government of his majesty to recognize these two republics as two independent and sovereign republics, and to maintain the ambassador of his majesty already accredited to Prague as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco to both the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

Sudan

UN Asked 'To Force' Egypt To Withdraw Troops

AB0401193693 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 4 Jan 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Relations between Sudan and Egypt, not normally very friendly, have lately taken a dive, with Sudan calling on the UN Security Council to force Egypt to withdraw its forces from the disputed Hala'ib triangle. Both countries claim the province as part of their territory. And last month, Khartoum accused Cairo of sending 600 troop reinforcements to the Hala'ib. Cairo, for its part, denied sending any new troops down there and has also written to the Security Council. Alfred Taban in Khartoum, telexed this report.

[Begin studio announcer recording] The newspaper (EL SUDAN AL-HADID), reported this morning that Sudan, last week, handed over a memorandum to the president of the UN Security Council to protest against what it called Egyptian aggression in the Province of Hala'ib. The memo said that the Egyptian action was a threat to the security and peace of the region and called for the immediate withdrawal of both Egyptian military forces and civilians.

Last year, Egypt was reported to have raised the salaries of public workers in the area including immams in mosques and brought to 20 the number of border posts. Sudan has also accused Egypt of violating an agreement it said they reached in a joint committee meeting held last October in Cairo. According to Sudan, it was decided at this meeting that the status quo in Hala'ib should be maintained until a final solution to the dispute is found. The newspaper said Sudan had asked the president of the Security Council to circulate Sudan's memorandum to all members of the United Nations. [end recording]

Wall Collapses at Stadium; al-Bashir Said Present

AB0201212093 Paris AFP in English 1340 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, Jan 2 (AFP)—Seventy people were injured in a stadium near the Sudanese capital Khartoum when a wall collapsed during 37th independence anniversary celebrations on Friday [1 January], the Middle East News Agency reported.

Sudan's military ruler General 'Umar al-Bashir was there when the accident happened. The casualties were among thousands of people from the Al Obeid region in Kurdufan who made the trip to the capital for the ceremony.

Fatah, Hamas Agree To Form Intifadah Committee

EA0501065893 Khartoum SUNA in English 1625 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Jan (SUNA)—The Palestinian Fatah and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) agreed Monday on setting up frameworks and joint committees toward boosting the intifadah (uprising) in the occupied lands, the armed struggle of the Arab Palestinian People and coordination of relations with the international organisations, said the secretary-general of the Arab and Islamic People's Congress [AIPC], Dr Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi.

In the press conference he held Monday here at the Friendship Hall following the talks between Fatah and Hamas delegations, Dr Turabi explained that the two sides agreed on formation of a joint committee for activation of the intifadah at the occupied lands and maintaining relations between all Palestinians. He said that the two delegations agreed on close cooperation as regards the question of the Palestinian deportees so that the world be sure of persecution and oppression policy adopted by the Zionist entity.

Dr Turabi pointed out that the delegations agreed to meet again shortly in the Sudan in order to work out bases of joint cooperation and (?to) determine the procedure for ensuring such cooperation. The two sides, he said, vowed to protect votes of political forces through unified representation of the Palestinian people besides their agreement to safeguard the conciliatory and unity spirit among the Palestinians.

Dr Turabi stressed that the question of deportees will push forward the efforts to unify the Palestinian ranks. He indicated that the meeting was successful in narrowing the differences between Fatah and Hamas, adding that the AIPC is concerned with unity between Muslims in all fields.

Dr Turabi has praised the Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, for sponsoring the meeting and for his keenness to boost the Palestinian unity.

Kurds Reject Baghdad's State Talks Proposal

NC0401193693 Paris AFP in English 1854 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Ankara, Jan 4 (AFP)—Baghdad made proposals to start negotiations on recognizing a Kurdish state within a federal Iraq, but Iraqi Kurdish leaders rejected them, a Kurdish source in northern Iraq said Monday.

The Kurds rejected the proposals which the Iraqis described as "advantageous," the source in Irbil told AFP in a telephone call from the Turkish capital Ankara. The source, who is close to the self-declared Kurdish government set up last year in northern Iraq and who requested anonymity, did not reveal details of the Iraqi proposals. He said Kurdish leaders set conditions of their own for starting new negotiations with the government of President Saddam Husayn. Talks over autonomy for Kurdistan were suspended in August 1991. [passage omitted]

Allied Delegation, Kurdish Leaders Discuss Aid

NC0401174493 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] An allied military delegation led by Colonel Robert Young visited the Salah-al-Din area on 2 January to meet with brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, and Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party. Our correspondent reports that Jawhar Namiq, speaker of the Kurdistan parliament; and Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum, prime minister of the Kurdistan region, also attended the meeting, during which Col. Young reportedly discussed how to transport humanitarian aid to Kurdistan.

Brother Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani stressed to the visiting delegation that the best way to secure the arrival of relief aid is to pressure the Iraqi regime to withdraw from certain areas in the Mosul Governorate or to completely comply with all clauses of Security Council Resolution 688. They also discussed the Iraqi regime's recent attempts to obstruct the arrival of international relief aid and ways to address these attempts.

Daily Airspace Violations Expression of 'Failure'

JN0301133393 Baghdad INA in English 1308 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 3, INA—AL-THAWRAH newspaper of Baghdad today described the American warplanes flying at low altitude over the northern Iraqi city of Mosul and its outskirts as a desperate behaviour imagining that such useless behaviours of flexing muscles could create uncalculated reactions from Iraq.

A paper article here today said this and other crimes have no moral or legal justification and that wisdom was still needed for patience and standing fast.

The paper added that intensifying those reckless flights over the northern city of Mosul following the extending of the mandate of multi-national forces in Turkey would not instigate from our people but ridicule and disgust and boost the belief in carrying on construction in all fields.

The Iraqi paper further said that the allied hostile warplanes which maintain aggression on Iraq's northern and southern airspace were trying to show off strength and capability to subdue the will of Iraqis following the downfall of the biggest symbol of evil namely the criminal George Bush.

The paper added that the on-going escalation of the violations of Iraqi airspace by the allied warplanes and the U-2 spy planes of the Iraqi airspace would remain an expression to the bankcruptcy of the evil forces against the brave position of the Iraqi people in facing the flagrant evil behaviours.

The paper concluded its article by saying that these aerial provocations of the hostile warplanes would not provoke even a single Iraqi child after having become the expression of the failure of the alliance against Iraq.

UN Chief Urged To Lift Ban on Domestic Flights

JN0501101693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] United Nations, 5 Jan (INA)—Iraq has once again urged the United Nations to press for rescinding the ban on domestic civilian flights and for allowing Iraqi Airways' humanitarian flights to resume as soon as possible.

A letter from Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali sent yesterday also called for returning the situation to what it was before the passing of Resolutions 661 and 670.

The continuation of this anomalous flight ban was not provided for in the UN Security Council resolutions, unjust as they are. The foreign minister's message called for the situation to be rectified by sanctioning humanitarian flights, especially by Iraqi Airways.

The foreign minister called the attention of the UN secretary general to a letter sent by Iraq to the world body on 31 December 1992 spelling out the deterimental effects the Sanctions Commission's resolutions are having on Iraqi civilians, especially children and the sick. He singled out a report circulated by news agencies about the death of one of 10 Iraqi children who had to take the arduous land route to Amman on their way to Rabat to receive treatment for ailments suffered from the American bombing.

The foreign minister's letter recalled that the Sanctions Commission had rebuffed an appeal by the General Federation of Trade Unions sent via the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNICEF, and the UN Coordinator's Relief Bureau in Baghdad that a special

plane be made available to transport the sick children direct to Rabat, considering their state of health.

The letter also referred to the death of three children—disabled by the U.S. bombing—a few days previously as they waited to set out to Tunis to receive medical treatment.

The distress caused to disabled children by a journey through the desert of more than 1,000 km is hardly in keeping with UN resolutions stressing human rights, al-Sahhaf's letter said. It merely makes a mockery of human rights protestations made from the UN forum. All the world should realize that by being deprived of the right to use their own country's planes, Iraqi civilians—especially children—are being denied their most basic human rights.

Official Returns From Tunis Meeting, Comments

JN0301135993 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 3, INA—Political forces in Tunis, Jordan, Palestine and Yemen have reiterated support for Iraq in its confrontation with the world powers of despotism and American imperialism.

In an arrival statement, member of the Foreign Relations Bureau of Iraq's Command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi said these forces have voiced off-hand rejection of all attempts to jeopardise Iraq's unity and to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs. They also demanded an immediate end to the unjust UN-imposed [as received] embargo on Iraq.

Mr Hammudi has returned from Tunis where he attended a meeting of the first conference of the Tunisian Socialist Progressive Gathering. These forces have strongly condemned the shooting down of an Iraqi aircraft by U.S. warplanes inside Iraqi airspace.

Officials Congratulate Saddam on Army Anniversary

JN0401203593

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic reports, in its regular 1130 GMT newscast on 4 January, that President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has received several cables from senior officials on the 72d anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army.

The first four-minute cable is sent by Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]. In his cable, the RCC vice chairman notes that at a time when the Iraqis are still jubilant and ecstatic over their "great victory in the glorious al-Qadisiyah [Iran-Iraq war] and the great Mother of Battles" [Gulf war] the precious anniversary of founding the Iraqi Army comes about. He praises the "brave, capable" Iraqi Army which managed to "defeat all forms of aggression." 'Izzat Ibrahim also praises the "giant civilized awakening being experienced by lofty Iraq in spite of the unjust blockade imposed by imperialism and its allies on our mujahid country."

The second two-minute cable is sent by Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president. Ma'ruf congratulates Saddam Husayn on the anniversary of founding the Iraqi Army, the "army of ideology and sacrifices," noting that the Army derives its resolve and steadfastness from Saddam Husayn. Ma'ruf also notes the Army's great responsibility under the current circumstances.

In his two-minute cable, Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al- Zubaydi congratulates Saddam Husayn on the anniversary, praising sacrifices of the Iraqi Army in defense of Iraq and the Arab nation. Al-Zubaydi also notes that the anniversary comes under the continuation of a "great conspiracy" against Iraq.

In its 1500 GMT scheduled newscast, Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic on 4 January reports the 7-minute text of cable from Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan and the 4-minute text of cable from Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid to President Saddam Husayn on the same occasion.

In its 1700 GMT scheduled newscast, Baghdad Radio on 4 January reports two cables: The 5-minute text of cable from National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and the 5-minute text of cable from Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan.

Baghdad Radio reports in its 1900 GMT newscast on 19 January the 6-minute text of the cable 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraqi Command of the Ba'th Party and secretary of the National Progressive and Patriotic Front, sent to President Saddam Husayn on the occasion of Army Day.

In their cables, the Iraqi officials pay tribute to the Iraqi Army and Saddam Husayn's leadership and voice pride in the reconstruction campaign.

Saddam Cables 'Arafat on Revolution Anniversary

JN3112130592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to his brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Council, on the anniversary of the Palestinian revolution. Following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

His excellency brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Commiittee.

On the anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, the national day of the sisterly state of Palestine, we are pleased to send to your excellency and to the brothers in the PLO our heartfelt congratulations and to express our

honest fraternal feelings. We wish you good health and ask Almighty God to grant our mujahid, patient, and steadfast Palestinian Arab people further strength, impregnability, and determination to continue their heroic just struggle against occupation and repressive and unjust Zionist practices, to crown their tireless struggle with splendid victory, achieve their objectives of liberation, sovereignty, and independence, and return Arab Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the independent Arab Palestine.

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Receives Reply Cable

JN0301182193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in reply to the one he sent 'Arafat on the 28th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution. Following is the text of the cable:

Your Excellency brother Saddam Husayn, greetings of the revolution. With extreme pride and appreciation, I received your brotherly congratulations on the 28th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution.

In my own name, in the name of the members of the PLO Executive Committee, and in the name of our mujahid people, I thank Your Excellency very much, and through you, I thank the fraternal Iraqi Government and people for the brotherly, honest congratulations you expressed in your cable, which stress fraternal Iraq's courageous and firm support for our people's cause and their struggle to win freedom and national independence.

It is a glorious national occasion, from which our steadfast people on the blessed land of Palestine derive many lessons that renew their pride and self-confidence, and strengthen their determination to continue their steadfastness, defend their rights and national dignity, and step up their resistance and blessed intifadah under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, until victory is achieved by terminating the Israeli occupation of their land and sanctities and until they regain their inalienable national rights, foremost of which is their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

On this important occasion, our Palestinian people are looking hopefully and confidently toward their [Arab] nation and its fraternal peoples for support to bolster their steadfastness and national resistance to save al-Aqsa Mosque from tyrannical Israeli occupation.

I seize this opportunity to beseech Almighty God to protect fraternal Iraq and its steadfast, patient people under your courageous leadership, and to help them confront the hostile, unjust blockade so that they can play their effective and great role in defending the just cause of their nation and its legitimate rights.

As I renew my deep thanks to you, I wish Your Excellency good health and happiness, and the fraternal Iraq people every success in achieving their noble national goals, including progress and prosperity. It is a revolution until victory. Let us go ahead together, side by side, until victory and the liberation of Jerusalem, with God's help.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee

Saddam Congratulates Cuba's Castro on National Day

JN0101101993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Council of State and Government of the Republic of Cuba, on his country's national day.

The cable reads: On the 34th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution, the national day of the Republic of Cuba, we are pleased to extend to Your Excellency, in the name of the people of Iraq and on our personal behalf, our best congratulations, wishing you continued good health and happiness and the friendly, struggling Cuban people more progress and prosperity. We also wish our cordial bilateral relations more progress and development in the interest of our two friendly nations. Best regards.

Saddam Cables al-Bashir on Sudan's National Day

JN0101190393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jan 93

["Text" of cable from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Sudan's 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir]

[Text] Your Excellency Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation in Sudan: I take the opportunity on Sudan's national day to send to your excellency, on bahalf of the Iraqi people and on my own behalf, our best wishes and brotherly feelings. I wish your excellency the best of health and happiness and the brotherly Sudanese people further progress and prosperity. I also hope that our brotherly relations will prosper in the best interests of both countries and of all Arabs and Muslims.

May you enjoy the peace and blessings of God.

Your brother Saddam Husayn.

New Group of Deportees Arrives From Kuwait

JN3112150092 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 31, INA—A new batch of the Iraqi and Arab deportees arrived yesterday in the border city of Safwan in the southern province of al-Basrah.

The batch grouped 357 deportees from Iraq, Jordan and Palestine expelled by the Kuwaiti authorities after a series of pressure and corporal and psychological torture.

The batch also included 26 deportees from those who were arrested in the Kuwaiti prisons for a month and 18 months during which they were exposed to brutal and inhumane practices.

Forces on 'High Alert' Amid Latest Attacks

TA0501113993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Several shells were fired at South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions in the central sector of the security zone this morning. No one was hurt. Correspondent Menahem Horowitz has the details:

[Horowitz] Explosions could be heard in south Lebanon since early this morning, and there was fire in Lebanon over the past hour. Terrorists fired antitank missiles and mortar shells at SLA outposts in the central sector of the security zone. Israeli Defense Force [IDF] and SLA soldiers returned fire.

Lebanese sources reported that shots were heard in south Lebanon at noon, as well. The shooting today came after several days of quiet in south Lebanon. SLA and IDF troops were placed on high alert for fear that the terrorists might attempt to renew terrorism operations in south Lebanon in view of the improving weather.

Sources Deny Report on Deal With PLO, Lebanon

TA0401122593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] The East Jerusalem newspaper AL-MANAR reports that international elements have proposed a deal in which the PLO and Lebanon would return the bodies of IDF soldiers to Israel, and in exchange Israel would return the deportees and release 200 prisoners. According to the newspaper the PLO has expressed its approval, and the international elements have offered to mediate. Israeli sources told our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus that this report is totally unfounded.

Rabin Said To Agree to New UN Envoy on Deportees

TA0401154893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Another UN envoy is coming to Israel and Lebanon to investigate the possibility of transferring aid to the deportees' encampment in south Lebanon. The visit was agreed upon several hours ago in a telephone conversation between UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Butrus-Ghali proposed sending an additional special emissary on the deportees' issue and Prime Minister Rabin accepted. The special envoy will meet with the UN secretary general in Cairo in the coming days, and arrive in Israel toward the end of the week. It is not clear how long he will be staying here. What is the significance of the decision to dispatch another envoy to Israel? It is clear that it means that the United Nations is not giving up. It believes there is a chance of reaching some arrangement on humanitarian aid being sent through Israeli territory to the deportees' encampment.

We recall that the previous envoy, James Jonah, has still not presented his report officially to the United Nations. Thus, the Security Council has not debated and voted on it. The assumption is that it will wait to see what the outcome of the new envoy's mission is and whether he succeeds in getting an agreement from Israel, which currently insists that the transfer of aid to the deportees be based on the principle of reciprocity with Lebanon.

The envoy is Chinmaya Gharekhan, who was India's UN ambassador and is currently UN undersecretary general and the UN secretary general's representative in the multilateral talks between Israel and the Arab states.

Official on Hamas Deportations, Aid to Territories

TA0401152193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Interview with Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of activities in the territories, by Gil Litman; place not given, on 4 January—recorded]

[Text] [Litman] General Rothschild, you refer to a new phenomenon in the territories, whereby the Islamic organizations, headed by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], have replaced the PLO. Has the deportation of 415 Hamas activists not encouraged that trend?

[Rothschild] No, definitely not. First, the phenomenon is not new. It has been going on for several months, and some of us even talk about years, therefore it is not a phenomenon which has just begun. Secondly, we should view the expulsions as a blow to the organizational framework. I have already said that the war against Hamas must have two aspects: fighting Hamas terrorism, and preventing the Hamas organizational framework from building up strength in the territories. The expulsion therefore has to be seen in that light.

[Litman] Is one of the ways to deal with the problem of a rise in power by Hamas specifically, and that of Islamic organizations in general, to increase Israeli financial support for the Arabs in the territories through investment in Arab projects?

[Rothschild] That is definitely the main trend and that is what is being done. It did not begin yesterday, it has been going on for 18 months.

[Litman] Can you give us figures?

[Rothschild] I suggest not going into sums because that is not the problem. We are talking about policy, which is not only money, it is encouraging investment, it is laws and regulations to encourage investment, it is economic openness and lifting restrictions on development and investment, as well as many other things. Therefore, the problem is not only a financial one. Of course, the more investments there are by the Israeli Government to develop jobs the more it will benefit everybody. It will

benefit the economic situation, and has direct repercussions on security and terrorism, by shoving out Hamas, which moved into the existing vacuum.

[Litman] That leads me to the last question. Would it be correct to say that the State of Israel in fact wants to encourage support for the PLO in the territories at Hamas' expense?

[Rothschild] The State of Israel is first interested in extending assistance, and in encouraging all those who want to be part of the political process. Some of those investments in the final analysis give supporters of the process a possibility of building up a power base in the field in the face of the Islamic element, which has a diametrically opposed political aim.

Foreign Minister on Palestinian Deportees

PM0401142293 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian 2 Jan 93 p 9

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Simonetta Della Seta in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] Jerusalem—[Della Seta] Minister Peres, what glimmers of hope do you see in the deportees affair? What is the basis for the latest negotiations with the Red Cross?

[Peres] This time the organization has chosen a separate approach with each country: What we are being asked is not linked to what is being discussed with Lebanon. The last negotiations failed precisely because the action was supposed to be taken simultaneously. We were ready, Lebanon was not. Now we are debating in the government whether to accept a unilateral gesture: in other words, to allow some doctors to go and check the deportees' state of health.

[Della Seta] Are you afraid, perhaps, that letting the Red Cross convoy through your border will weaken the internal image of strength which the government has built up by expelling the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fundamentalists?

[Peres] The problem we are facing is different. In practice, the Lebanese are holding the deportees hostage: They are not allowing help to get through to them, they are isolating them by having the army surround them, they are preventing them from using their (mostly Jordanian) passports, and even from appealing to our military courts. Not only Israel, but Lebanon as well, should concern itself with those people's future. Its only concern, however, is to get journalists to the camp.

[Della Seta] What do you think of the French proposal to provide aid using the soldiers of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL]?

[Peres] The UNIFIL troops have no right of sovereignty, they are not a state, they are not even an army, their only task is to observe. To involve UNIFIL in this affair would complicate the problem even further.

[Della Seta] By using mass expulsion, were you thinking of a preventive effect for the future, in other words discouraging acts of violence in the territories, or is it only a short-term solution?

[Peres] The philosophy behind punishment is usually a philosophy of prevention. When you are faced with violent and turbulent people who daily attempt to sabotage the peace process, even within Palestinian ranks themselves, then the punishment can only be drastic and bitter. The issue is complex, and not one person who criticizes Israel has yet offered us an alternative solution. Hamas is an organization which does not accept majority control. It is a group which is capable of killing people and destroying the prospects of peace.

[Della Seta] Israel is trying to put pressure on the Security Council countries, and in particular on the United States, to prevent a new condemnation, considered "a grave threat to the peace process," from being pronounced. Do you not think that to avoid such an international step, Israel could make a greater show of goodwill over the deportees affair?

[Peres] Certainly. We are discussing this. I would like to remind you that every deportee has the right, which none has availed himself of hitherto, to appeal to our military tribunals. We would like to persuade them to take advantage of this. Some families maintain that their relatives are innocent: Why not prove it? As we have already explained, it is a temporary "collective removal," for a limited period from nine months to two years.

[Della Seta] The Army announced that the 10 men expelled in error can return. How?

[Peres] All they have to do is show up at our border. There are many ways of reaching Israel from Lebanon. The important thing is that the Beirut government should allow them to leave. Lebanese or UN soldiers must accompany them to the border. Once they are back in Israel, the 10 will be put on trial anyway.

[Della Seta] You recently declared that if any radical Hamas members are elected in the territories in free elections, you will be ready to open talks with them. What type of talks? How can you begin talking after being enemies?

[Peres] I see a distinction between elected and non-elected leaders rather than one between the PLO and Hamas. An elected man undoubtedly represents his people's will. I am sure that the majority of Palestinians are in favor of peace: Thus the majority of those elected, from whatever party or group, will speak of peace.

[Della Seta] Is this perhaps the right moment for Israel to start speaking directly with the PLO? You yourself announced that you were ready to meet Faysal al-Husayni, the PLO's highest-ranking representative in Jerusalem.

[Peres] The problem is to allow them to have a leadership chosen by the majority. Even if Israel were to meet a PLO representative today, he would never be a man

elected by the people, thus someone in the position of having a commitment, a mandate for his people. To hold free and democratic elections in the territories is no longer an option, it is a duty.

[Della Seta] The majority of Palestinians in the territories, however, recognize the Tunis leadership as their representatives, and they would like it to be officially recognized by Israel. Would it not be a way of helping them impose majority control?

[Peres] No. I am talking about the majority of Palestinians inside the territories. We cannot negotiate with those who are in the diaspora. The decisions must be made by the Palestinians currently in the areas controlled by Israel.

[Della Seta] Do you think Syria is playing a role in the crisis?

[Peres] I tend to think that Lebanon never normally takes any position without first obtaining what we might delicately term Damascus' "opinion."

[Della Seta] Prime Minister Rabin has often spoken of 1993 as the year in which we shall witness the peace process' first success. With which partner will we see the most progress?

[Peres] We would be making a mistake if we allowed one set of negotiations to progress further than the others. And indeed what negotiations could be carried on independently? We are seeking to solve all the problems of the past simultaneously, in order to build a better future for the entire region.

[Della Seta] Can you confirm that during the latest round of talks in Washington, the Israelis allowed the Palestinians to adopt UN Resolution 242 ("peace in exchange for land") for the territories as well, and to make it possible for the Palestinian administrative council of self-government to work "de facto" in a legislative way?

[Peres] Israel has tried to clarify the "position" of Resolutions 242 and 338 in the transitional stage and then in the definitive setup. Autonomy is a temporary solution, a transitional phenomenon: It has neither a sense of permanence nor a map, but a calendar and a thrust toward improvement. For the moment we are only talking about "a political voyage" toward a more radical change.

[Della Seta] The lack of a geographical dimension in this "transitional" stage, however, is what frightens the Palestinians.

[Peres] Land has three dimensions: One is sovereignty, and it concerns the land's political authority; the second is ownership, and it concerns the person who owns it because he has bought it; the third is running it, the administration. With regard to sovereignty, there is no problem since Israel has never annexed the territories. With regard to ownership, there is no change. As for running it, our proposal is as follows: Where there is Palestinian life there will be Palestinian administration, where Israelis live their administration will remain.

[Della Seta] However, from the Palestinians' viewpoint, their aim is to have a state of their own.

[Peres] In this climate it is obvious that they are looking at one solution and we are considering others (for instance confederation with Jordan).

[Della Seta] How close are you to an agreement with Syria?

[Peres] At this point we have both now clarified the real aim of the negotiations: We want a better Middle East and we are working for a serious, broad agreement.

Political Concerns Behind Ban on PLO Meetings

TA0401180393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Representatives of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch told members of the Knesset's Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee today that political, and not security, considerations are behind the law banning meetings with the PLO.

Our correspondent reports that today the committee continued discussions to prepare the law for its second and third Knesset hearings.

A representative of the Justice Ministry told the committee that not even one person has been put on trial since the law took effect, even when the very act of holding a meeting constituted a security offense. The law was only enforced when the meeting had a political or declarative purpose. The Justice Ministry representative stated that as far as her ministry was concerned, abolishing the law would not have any detrimental effect on national security, because anyone suspected of security violations could still be prosecuted under the penal code.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin told the committee that since 1988, the PLO has been recognized by 62 countries, and the organization currently maintains 56 embassies around the world and another 27 offices of various levels.

Murdered Israeli on Mission for Shin Bet

TA0301202593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2000 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Report by police affairs correspondent 'Asaf Ya'ari]

[Excerpt] Hayim Nahmani, 29, of Jerusalem, who worked for the Shin Bet, was murdered while on an operational mission in Jerusalem. The identity of the murderer is known to the security forces, and the investigation is being carried out by the security forces and the police.

Nahmani, a Jerusalem resident, was brought up and educated in Jerusalem, served as an officer in an Army combat unit, and in April 1990 joined the Shin Bet. [passage omitted]

Hamas Blamed for Slaying

NC0301222493 Paris AFP in English 2158 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Jan 3 (AFP)—An Israeli intelligence agent was stabbed and bludgeoned to death in West Jerusalem Sunday and a government minister blamed the killing on the fundamentalist Hamas organisation.

A police spokesman said Hayim Nahmani, an agent for the domestic Shin Bet intelligence service, was stabbed and beaten with a hammer in a home in West Jerusalem while he was on assignment.

His body was found on a stairwell, the spokesman said, adding that police knew the identity of the killer and were hunting for the suspect. He refused to elaborate.

Nahmani had been a member of Shin Bet since 1990.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer blamed the murder on Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement.

"This murder marks a new escalation following the slaying on December 15 of a border guard by the Hamas terrorists," he said on Israeli radio.

"They no longer act only in the (occupied) territories but also in Israel, which should lead us to consider new measures to take," he said.

"All those who in recent days have felt remorse over the expulsion of 415 members of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad should now know who they are dealing with," he said.

Israel expelled the 415 Palestinians to a no-man's land in south Lebanon after Hamas killed five Israeli soldiers and the border policeman last month.

Hamas Leaflet Calls For Attacks on Shin Bet

TA0501114393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Jan 93 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] yesterday issued a leaflet urging its activists to attack Shin Bet and security forces personnel. This is the first time that a Hamas leaflet unequivocally calls for attacking Shin Bet people. In its leaflet, however, Hamas does not take responsibility for the murder of Shin Bet agent Hayim Nahmani. [passage omitted]

Fundamentalist students from Bethlehem College yesterday stated that the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam group, Hamas' military arm, is responsible for Nahmani's murder. The students also drew pro-Hamas slogans on the college walls. [passage omitted]

Supporters Riot in Territories on 'Fatah Day'

TA0101200193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] A hand grenade was hurled at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol today in the village of Bayt Hanun in the Gaza Strip. The grenade missed its target and hit a local car. The driver was injured and taken to hospital by IDF soldiers. The troops on patrol fired back at their assailants, and the IDF closed the area.

The 27th anniversary of the establishment of Fatah was marked in the territories today. Processions were held at several locations, including the Hebron area, and the Balatah refugee camp. Masses of Fatah supporters staged disturbances in Nabulus and Ramallah, but the IDF used force to disperse the rioters.

Our correspondent in the territories Amir Hay reports that the curfew that was imposed on the Gaza Strip on Fatah Day remains in force for the third consecutive day. Nevertheless, during the curfew, approximately 15,000 Gaza residents left for work in Israel.

'Fatah Day' Curfew Lifted

TA0301092893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] The curfew was lifted in the Gaza Strip this morning, and approximately 33,000 local residents set out for work in Israel. Correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfew was imposed over the weekend to prevent any attacks on 1 January, which was Fatah Day.

New Fence Along Gaza Strip To Prevent Attacks

TA0301195493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] A new 52-km border fence will be set up along the length of the Gaza Strip. Our army affairs correspondent Beni Liss reports that the Defense Ministry, the Construction and Housing Ministry, and the Jewish National Fund will rebuild the border fence at a cost of 6 million shekels. Our correspondent notes that the existing fence is damaged in many places. In view of the high number of terrorist actions against Western Negev settlements by Gaza Strip residents—30 infiltrations in the past month—it was decided to set up a new fence. A barrier made of iron tracks will be laid along the entire length of the fence to prevent vehicles from trying to pass through.

Reservists Ask Rabin for Clear Policy in Gaza

TA3112181692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Members of the reserves battalion which lost three soldiers when a jeep came under fire in the Gaza Strip say that the present reality, in which initiative and courage are attributes associated with terrorists, fills IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers with a feeling of disparagement and hopelessness. In a manifesto to Yitzhaq Rabin, prime

minister and defense minister, the reservists call on the government to adopt immediately a clear-cut political stand on the Gaza Strip issue and to decide on the means the Army requires until a permanent solution is attained.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the reservists' manifesto further warns that unless the issue receives very thorough treatment, the Gaza Strip can expect a process of lebanonization and loss of control.

Joint Syrian Plan on Golan Withdrawal Reported

TA0401094393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Three members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee have said they possess information on a plan being worked out between Israel and Syria on a withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the three Knesset members [MK] toured the region this morning. Likud MK Binyamin Netanyahu said that the Israeli Defense Force [IDF] intends to withdraw to the second rampart line. Tzomet MK Moshe Peled said the plan calls for introducing a UN buffer force in the initial phase and later for the Syrians to take control of the ramparts. Labor MK Avigdor Qahalani said the IDF must not withdraw from the rampart line, saying this is the only defense line capable of stopping the strengthening Syrian Army from invading the Galilee.

Rabin Remarks on Golan Withdrawal, Peace Process

TA3112061592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Once again, the prime minister has made an unambiguous statement about Israel's readiness to effect a withdrawal in the Golan Heights. Yitzhaq Rabin said he is the first Israeli prime minister to unequivocally state that in exchange for peace with Syria, he would be willing to accept Resolutions 338 and 242, which entail a withdrawal of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops. He was speaking to a meeting of Labor's Young Guard in Tel Aviv last night. Our party affairs correspondent Sheli Yehimovich reports:

[Begin recording] [Yehimovich] [passage omitted] Replying to the question on an Arab party member, Rabin assumed full responsibility for the deportations of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists and then proceeded to discuss the peace process.

[Rabin] I am the first prime minister of the State of Israel who has said that in exchange for peace with Syria he is prepared to accept Resolutions 242 and 338—namely, a withdrawal of IDF troops, and I stress: IDF troops. I have also said that I am not prepared to discuss the extent of the withdrawal before Syria gives me an answer about what peace means to it.

[Yehimovich] A withdrawal of IDF troops, emphasized Rabin. He referred to the dispute with the Palestinians concerning the interim arrangements and their aspiration to have them lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state. He also talked about what he termed a flexible policy of fighting terror in conjunction with pursuing the peace process.

[Rabin] In order to conduct a flexible peace policy, one must combat terror in general and Islamic fundamentalist terror in particular. The latter is not just terror against Israelis and Palestinians who disagree with their views, but it is an ideology. It is terror for the sake of attaining the political goal of terminating the peace process. Both Fatah and Hamas constitute terror.

[Yehimovich] At this point, there was a catcall from the audience concerning the legality of the deportations. Rabin astonished the heckler and his entire audience by pouncing on the man.

[Rabin] Do you have any idea what you are talking about? Such are the enemies of the party. [applause] To say that we did not act legally? I say: Such are the enemies of the party. To say that the government did not act legally? Who are you? The gossip mongers in our midst—they are the source of our troubles. He thinks he is such a big authority, saying that the government did not act legally. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Israeli Said To Plan Attacks on Shamir, Sharon

TA0101054293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Refa'el Avraham, the Israeli detained on suspicion of planning to carry out attacks in Israel on behalf of the PLO, had planned to harm former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Knesset member Ari'el Sharon. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that Avraham was detained a week ago when he landed at Ben-Gurion Airport and his remand was extended by a Netanya judge. A senior police source noted last night that there was a possibility that Avraham might be mentally unstable.

Suspect Detained for Planning Fatah Attacks

TA3112175292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] The Shin Bet and the police have detained Refa'el Avraham, a 44-year-old Rishon Leziyyon inhabitant with a long criminal record. He is suspected of joining the terrorist Fatah organization and planning terrorist attacks inside Israel.

Our police correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that Refa'el Avraham was instructed to take action against senior public figures. He has admitted having been recruited in a West European country and activated by senior Fatah officials, including Jibril al-Rijub, one of 'Arafat's aides. Refa'el Avraham met with Fatah staffers in Tunis, where he was paid $33,000.

His record includes a conviction for drug trafficking.

Killings, Violent Incidents Reported in Country

'Arab Nationalist' Motives Suspected

TA0301195393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Excerpts] A 26-year-old Israeli was murdered this afternoon in Jerusalem. The motive for the murder was Arab nationalist. The body was found in an apartment building in Habonim Street. A first aid team rushed to the site and found the body of the young man lying on the building's stairwell. Our police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov has learned that the man sustained multiple knife stabbings and blows with a hammer. The police commissioner told our correspondent that it is an extremely grave incident. [passage omitted]

Dani Partosh, 26, of Holon, was stabbed this morning at a building site where he worked in the town. The police suspect that the assailant is an Arab resident of Hebron and that he was politically motivated. The suspect fled the scene, and the police are now hunting for him. [passage omitted]

One Killed, 10 Wounded in Rafah

TA0301135693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] A Rafah resident was killed and 10 others were wounded during a riot today. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] jeep drove into an ambush of stone throwers. The soldiers fired shots to extricate themselves from the mob. The soldiers got away but left behind the jeep, which had overturned during the incident. The IDF is investigating to see if there is any connection between the shots and the dead man.

Three Injured Near Janin

TA0501055793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Excerpts] In Qabatiyah, near Janin, three Arab residents were wounded by Army fire. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the incident occurred when shots were fired at an Army patrol. The soldiers returned fire, wounding two young children and an older resident. They were all taken to hospital for treatment. [passage omitted]

In Khan Yunus, an explosive device went off. There were no reports of injuries or damage.

Cars, Houses Damaged in Hebron

TA0201183293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] The Army says over 10 settlers went on a rampage today in the center of Hebron. They smashed windows and punctured the tires of cars, as well as smashing windowpanes of houses in the area. Nine Arab residents submitted complaints to Hebron Police. An investigation has been launched, but so far no one has been arrested.

A gas grenade was hurled today at the police station in Ramallah. It went off near the northern entrance of the station, but there were no reports of injury or damage.

'Main Points' of Hamas Platform Published

TA0101131793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jan 93 p B2

[Report on "main points" of Hamas—Islamic Resistance Movement—platform, "written in the underground by a team headed by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin" and "translated, with explanations and remarks, by Refa'el Yisra'eli of the Hebrew University's Truman Institute"—all chapter and clause numbers as published]

[Text]

The 10 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] Principles of Faith

To understand the movement's plan, one should review its platform as it was published:

1. Hamas has vowed to wage a holy war for Palestine, against the Jews, until the victory of Allah is attained.
2. The land must be cleansed from the impurity and evil of the tyrant conquerors.
3. Under the wings of Islam, coexistence with members of other religions is possible. When Islam is not ruling, hypocrisy, hatred, division, corruption, and oppression prevail.
4. According to the prophet's order, the Muslims must fight the Jews and kill them wherever they may be.
5. Hamas aspires to establish an entity in which Allah is the supreme goal, the Koran is the constitution, jihad (holy war) is the mean, and death for the sake of Allah is the supreme aspiration.
6. Palestine is a holy Islamic asset (waqf) until the end of time. Therefore, no one may negotiate or forsake it.
7. It is a personal religious rite for every Muslim to carry on with jihad until the land has been salvaged.
8. Hamas opposes international discussions, negotiations, and peace arrangements of any kind. Sovereignty over the land is a religious matter, and negotiations about it mean giving up on part of the believers' control over it.
9. The Jews have taken hold of the world media and financial centers. Through revolutions, wars, and movements such as the Freemasons, communism, capitalism, Zionism, Rotary, Lions, B'nai B'rith, and so forth, they aspire to undermine the foundations of the entire human society in order to destroy it, cultivate their evil and corruption, and conquer the world through their favored institutions such as the League of Nations, the United Nations, and the Security Council. Their plots are described in detail in the Protocols of the Elders of Zion.
10. Hamas opposes the secular state which the PLO wishes to set up in Palestine because it would be an anti-Islamic state by nature. However, if the PLO were to adopt Islam and makes it its guiding light, all members of the Hamas movement would become soldiers of the liberation and "set the fire that would quell the enemy."

Solutions by Peaceful Means, Peace Initiatives, and International Conferences

Clause 13. (Peace) initiatives, called solutions by peaceful means, and international conferences designed to solve the problem of Palestine—all stand in contradiction to Hamas' principles of faith. This is because forsaking any part of Palestine means forsaking parts of faith; Hamas' nationalism is part of its faith. The movement teaches its members to adhere to its principles and to hoist the banner of Allah over their homeland when fighting the holy war: "Allah is almighty, but most of the people are unaware of that."

Every now and then, there are voices calling for an international conference which would solve the problem. Some accept the idea, others reject it for this or that reason and demand that these or those conditions be met prior to their agreeing to the convening of the conference or their participation in it. Nevertheless, knowing who the (potential) partners in such a conference are, and being aware of their past and present stands, Hamas does not believe that such conferences can fulfill the demands of, restore rights to, or do justice to the oppressed. Such conferences are but a means to nominate the heathens as middlemen in Muslim countries. When did the heathens ever do the faithful any justice?

"And neither the Jews nor the Christians will be pleased with you until you assume their faith. Say: Listen! Allah's (own) guidance is the guidance. And if you follow their will and the knowledge that has been bestowed upon you, then Allah will not be your friend of protector." (from the Koran, Sura 2)

There is no solution to the problem of Palestine other than the way of jihad. Initiatives, offers, and international conferences are but a waste of time; it is a trick that will yield nothing to those engaged in it. The Palestinian nation is too noble to have its future, rights, and destiny subjected to futile tricks. As the hadith says:

"The Syrian nation is Allah's whip raised on this land; with it he takes revenge from anyone he chooses from among his faithful. The hypocrites among them are forbidden to defeat the true believers, and they will die in fear and sorrow." (This was told by Tabrani, a direct descendent of Muhammad, and by Ahmad, whose genealogy is not complete. Nevertheless, this hadith is bound to be true, because the two who told it are reliable. Allah knows best.)

Clause 14. The problem of liberating Palestine is connected to three circles: Palestinian, Arabic, and Muslim. Each of the circles has a role to play in the struggle against Zionism and duties it should fulfill. Ignoring any of these circles would be a great mistake and an act of enormous ignorance because Palestine is a Muslim land in which the first qiblah [direction of prayer] is found, and it is the third holiest place. This is also the place from which the prophet, may Allah's prayers and peace rest with him, ascended to heaven.

Because of this state of affairs, the liberation of the land is a personal rite which applies to all Muslims wherever they may be.

Chapter 18. The women in the home and family of the jihad warriors, mothers or sisters, carry out the most important duty of caring for the house and raising the children in accordance with the rites and values of Islam. They are busy with educating their children to fulfill the rites of religion while preparing them for the duty of jihad awaiting them.

Chapter 20. This spirit of Islam must apply to any Muslim society. A society standing against a cruel Nazi-like enemy that does not distinguish between men and women, old and young, must be the first to praise itself with the spirit of Islam.

Chapter 22. They (Israel) are also using money to set up secret organizations which spread around the world to destroy societies and attain the Zionist interests. These are the organizations: The clubs of the Freemasons, Rotary, Lions, B'nai B'rith, and so forth. All of these are destructive espionage organizations. They even use money to overtake imperialistic countries and urge them to take over many other countries in order to exploit their wealth and spread their corruption there.

As for local and world wars, it is a fact which no one can refute that they were behind World War I, wishing to wipe the Muslim Caliphate off the face of the earth. They made a fortune and took possession of many resources of wealth. They obtained the Balfour Deceleration and established the League of Nations to control the world. They were also behind World War II, from which they gained enormous benefit by trading in weapons and prepared the ground for the establishment of their own state. They were the spirit behind the establishment of the United Nations and the Security Council, with which they replaced the League of Nations, and through which they wish to control the world. Their fingerprints can be found wherever there is war in the world.

Chapter 32. Hamas is calling on all Arab and Muslim nations to act seriously and relentlessly to foil this dreadful ploy and make the masses realize the danger inherent in evading the circle of the struggle against Zionism. Today it is Palestine, tomorrow it could be another country or countries because, after all, the Zionist plot is endless; after Palestine they will aspire to spread from the Nile to the Euphrates. Nevertheless, when they finish digesting the territory on which they lay their hands, they will seek further and further expansion. Their plot is presented in the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, and their current behavior is a the best proof of what the protocols say.

Dropping out of the circle of confrontation with Israel is a great act of treason and will bring a curse on the heads of the sinners.

Chapter 27. When the PLO adopts Islam, making it its guiding light, we will be its soldiers. We will become the fuel to its fire that will consume the enemy. Until that happens, and we pray to Allah that it happen soon, Hamas will look on PLO as a father on his son, a brother on his brother, as a relative would treat a family member, sharing his pain when a thorn twists in his side, and supporting him in his struggle against the enemy, wishing him divine guidance and honest and honorable conduct.

'Secret' Water Talks With Israel Reported

NC0301155093 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1404 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—The magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF publishes the following report in its 4 January edition:

A secret diplomatic report says that Jordan and Israel hold regular water talks between May and October each year. The talks are held near al-'Adasiyah in the al-Hammah area on the Jordanian bank of the al-Yarmuk river.

At the last meeting held on 27 August, Israel criticized Jordan for allowing Syria to use 200 million cubic meters of the al-Yarmuk River waters. The Jordanian side replied that it had to do so because of its fear of Syria. Jordan asked Israel to allow it to obtain additional quantities of water from the al-Yarmuk River ranging from 60 to 70 million cubic meters to offset the shortage in its water requirements. The report says Israel is currently studying this request, which is only for one time and is not considered a permanent agreement to increase Jordan's share of the al-Yarmuk River waters.

British Parliamentary Delegation Visits Amman

Meets With Parliament Officials

JN0201181193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Today, at noon, Senator Ahmad 'Ubaydat, second vice president of the Senate, and a number of senators in Parliament met with a British parliamentary delegation, including Robert Adley from the Conservative Party and John Rathborne from the Labor Party.

At the outset of the meeting, 'Ubaydat said that solving the Palestinian problem is the key to solving the conflict in the Middle East. He stressed that the operation deporting Palestinians from their homeland harmed the peace process and that this operation gave a strange impression and raised questions about the possibility of continuing the negotiations under these circumstances.

The British delegation expressed its hope that continued cooperation and dialogue between the Arabs and Europe, in general, and between the Arabs and the United Kingdom, in particular, will contribute to more understanding of Arab issues so a just and lasting peace can be reached in the Middle East.

Moreover, Tahir al-Masri, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives, and a number of committee members met with the British parliamentary delegation today. During the meeting, al-Masri emphasized that the United Kingdom should pressure Israeli into complying with UN and Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 799 which stipulates the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homeland.

It is noteworthy that the British parliamentary delegation arrived in Amman this morning on a short official visit.

Confers With Prime Minister

JN0301125693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and British House of Commons members Robert Adley and John Rathborne have met to discuss regional and world developments and the efforts being made to work out a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli dispute. At a meeting held at the Prime Ministry this morning, the prime minister set out the Arab and Jordanian policy positions, including UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace formula. On the issue of the Palestinian expellees, he said they should be allowed to return to their homeland as called for by Security Council Resolution 799.

The British lawmakers said they were sympathetic to the expellees and supported the resolution calling for their return. They backed the efforts being made to bring peace to the region on the basis of international legitimacy.

Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for cabinet affairs, attended the meeting.

Speaks With Crown Prince

JN0301190693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Robert Adley and John Rathborne, members of the British House of Commons, today.

His highness discussed with the two guests various issues dealing with the peace process, including the issue of the Palestinian deportees.

Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, attended the meeting.

Russia's Khasbulatov, Delegation on Official Visit

Received by 'Arabiyat, Al-Talhuni

JN0201214793 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, and Bahjat al-Talhuni, first vice president of the Senate, today received Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, and the accompanying delegation, which arrived in Amman at noon today on an official two-day visit. The visit comes within the framework of a regional tour.

During his meeting with the visiting delegation and in the presence of some representatives, Dr. 'Arabiyat welcomed the friendly delegation and praised the historic friendship that link the Jordanian people with the peoples of the former Soviet republics.

Dr. 'Arabiyat discussed development in the democratic march. Referring to the political developments in the former Soviet republics, Dr. 'Arabiyat expressed his hope that the two friendly countries would be able to further bolster their bilateral relations. He emphasized that Jordan and the Arab nation expect the Russian Federation to play an effective role in solving the region's and other world problems.

Dr. 'Arabiyat stressed the need to adopt a united humanitarian stand on what is happening in the occupied Palestinian territories in terms of practices and repressive acts by Israeli occupation authorities, including the issue of the Palestinian deportees, and on what is happening in Somalia and Bosnia-Hercegovina where human dignity is being slaughtered in a barbaric manner.

For his part, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet said that the political developments in the new Russia will never harm the interests of the Middle East region and that his country shares Jordan's and the Arab countries' worry because the Middle East problem is so far unresolved.

During his meeting with the visiting Russian delegation, Bahjat al-Talhuni, first vice president of the Senate, praised the friendly positions the former Soviet Union adopted on Arab issues, especially its support for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

A number of senators and members of the Russian parliamentary delegation took part in a discussion which focused on the role of the CIS foreign policy toward regional issues, especially supporting the peace process and forcing Israel to implement laws of international legitimacy on which the peace process is based, as well as the UN Resolution on the return of the Palestinian deportees.

[Begin Khasbulatov recording in Russian with superimposed Arabic translation] The visit of this high-ranking delegation shows that we must take a more effective and active role in promoting a Middle East settlement and other regional issues. [end recording]

Meet With Prime Minister

JN0301134293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has said that a Middle East settlement must be just, comprehensive, and durable, and acceptable to the Palestinian and other Arabs. The prime minister was speaking to a Russian parliamentary delegation led by Imranovich Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, at the Prime Ministry at noon today. Jordan, Bin-Shakir added, would like to see in place a just settlement ensuring the rights of the Palestinian people and their repatriation to their homeland. Jordan joined the peace process as an alternative to the military solution and to advance the development and welfare of the people of the region. His excellency said friendly Russia has an important role to play in the current peace efforts, and noted with satisfaction the two countries friendly, cooperative ties.

The head of the parliamentary team said he was proud of the historically close ties between the two countries. He lauded Jordan's wise and balanced policies, and stressed that his country was eager to make a positive contribution to the Middle East peace talks.

The meeting was attended by the speaker of the House of Representatives; Tahir al-Masri, the chairman of the house Foreign Affairs Committee; and the minister of state for cabinet affairs and the minister of state for parliamentary affairs.

Confer With Crown Prince

JN0301175193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received in his office at the Royal Hashemite Court today Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, and his accompanying delegation.

During their meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations in all fields. His highness the crown prince stressed the importance of interaction between the Middle East area, as a region, and all European countries, and of benefiting from CSCE experience to help handle the region's security, political, and economic problems with a continuously comprehensive outlook.

The guest expressed his thanks and deep appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn and to his highness the crown prince.

Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, attended the meeting.

Al-Hariri Reiterates Position on Deportees

NC0401071793 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Lebanon's position concerning the Palestinian deportees remains unchanged. Today, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri renewed Lebanon's refusal to receive the deportees. In a statement to THE TIMES, he said the death of one or two deportees will not change our position. He added: If assistance to the deportees is authorized or if some of them receive treatment in Lebanese hospitals, then they will become a Lebanese responsibility, which should never happen.

Prime Minister al-Hariri said that he is under pressure from the entire world to change his position for humanitarian reasons. He said, however, that there is consensus in Lebanon in his favor and that even the deportees support him. He said the Israelis shelled the area around the deportees' camp to scare them and force them to move toward the positions of the Lebanese Army. He said that this will never happen.

Prime Minister Reiterates Stand

NC0401165593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri told REUTER today that Israel must return the deportees to their homes, as that state is responsible for them. He added that the Lebanese are proud that they have a government that means what it says and sticks to its decisions.

Al-Hariri emphasized that he is serious about not allowing the deportees to enter Lebanon. Al-Hariri said he regrets the current situation, adding that the problem of the deportees is political, not humanitarian. I pray that none of them will die there, he said, but it is not my responsibility because the area in which they are living is not a no-man's-land; it is Lebanese territory occupied by Israel.

The prime minister added: We are not seeking a battle with Israel, or anyone else for that matter. We are a small country and all we are asking for is to be left in peace. We have just come out of a civil war that destroyed our country, our infrastructure, our unity, and people. We cannot afford any additional problems, he said.

Al-Hariri added that Lebanon will eagerly await the outcome of the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo on 11 January. He expressed his disappointment at certain Western and Arab governments for their failure to pressure Israel to return the deportees when they are pressuring Beirut to provide them assistance.

Arab Foreign Ministers To Meet on Deportees

NC0401125493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said today that the Arab League council that will meet at the Arab foreign ministers level in Cairo on 10 January [as heard] will demand that the UN Security Council meet to draw up a mechanism for implementing Resolution 799. The minister said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] We are consulting and discussing with the Arab foreign ministers, and the meeting might be held in Cairo on 11 January to ask the Security Council to hold a meeting to draw up a mechanism and timetable for the return of the Palestinian deportees. As you know, the Lebanese stand is based on Lebanon's conviction and commitment to international laws, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, which requires any occupying country to shoulder the task and responsibility of the safety and security of the citizens who are under occupation. Hence, this issue will be discussed in Cairo on 11 January. [end recording]

PNC Official Discusses Deportees With Minister

NC0401170493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] The deportees issue was discussed today by Information Minister Michel Samahah and a Palestinian delegation including Taysir Quba'ah, deputy chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC], and Shafiq al-Hut, director of the PLO office in Beirut.

After the meeting, Quba'ah said that the discussion centered on the Palestinian deportees who are on Lebanese territory, adding that Lebanon has adopted a political stand, which has been stressed through the media, on the mass deportations.

Quba'ah praised the Lebanese stand, which opposes the Zionist enemy's mass deportation of Palestinians, saying that if Israel is successful in this attempt it would be encouraged to repeat such actions and eventually empty the intifadah of its meaning and cadres.

The PNC official said: We are indebted to Lebanon and its people for what they have offered and still are offering to the Palestinian cause. We thanked the Lebanese Government for its stand and its refusal to let the deportees cross into or stay on its territory. He added that the only solution is to return the deportees to their homeland.

Responding to a question, Quba'ah said: The PLO has made a decision not to engage in negotiations amid deportations.

Minister Calls For Arab Unity Summit

NC0501080493 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, in Beirut, by correspondent Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, on the Palestinian deportees issue; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Abu-al-Majd] Lebanese Defense Minister Dallul, what will your next steps be and what do you want the world to do to stop this Israeli intransigence?

[Dallul] Our first demand is that the Arabs hold a summit and rebuild the damaged Arab structure. We want Arab solidarity—even the minimum—against Israel's intransigence. We also want the world community to shoulder its responsibilities toward Israel. We are not responsible for this tragedy, which was caused by Israel. We will not retreat from our position. We blame Israel, and we appeal to the world to pressure Israel into returning the deportees to their land. The issue is no longer pressing for us. We will not retreat from our position, no matter the circumstances. The others must apply pressure on Israel, which created these problems and caused these disasters.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, will Lebanon attend the upcoming round of peace talks in light of Israel's obstinacy, occupation of southern Lebanon, and refusal to return the deportees?

[Dallul] Lebanon very much wants Arab solidarity. We do not allow ourselves to tamper with major issues. If our colleagues and brothers attend the talks, so will we. We will raise the issue in all its aspects. If our Arab brothers agree to suspend the talks, we will welcome this. We will not unilaterally suspend the talks, because we are concerned about Arab solidarity and do not let ourselves shake it. [passage omitted]

Armed Palestinians Hold Demonstration 1 Jan

NC0101154593 Paris AFP in English 1520 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Jan 1 (AFP)—Hundreds of armed Palestinian fighters on Friday held a demonstration near here to mark the 28th anniversary of Fatah's first armed action against Israel.

Fatah military leader Munir Miqdah meanwhile told AFP that the mainstream PLO group will "pursue the armed struggle against Israel" in retaliation for the expulsions by Israel of 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Four hundred fighters armed with anti-tank rockets and Kalashnikov assault rifles marched through the 'Ayn al-Halwah refugee camp on the eastern outskirts of this south Lebanon port, in the biggest parade since the Lebanese Army seized heavy weapons from the Palestinians in July 1991.

The men, many of whom were masked, shouted Islamic slogans and carried the Palestinian flag as well as the green colors of Islam.

Several thousand 'Ayn al-Halwah inhabitants applauded as the men marched past a stand where Fatah military leaders were seated.

Fatah, the mainstream group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, carried out its first armed action against Israel on January 1, 1965.

In a statement issued Friday, Fatah urged Arab countries, particularly those engaged in peace talks with Israel, to put pressure on the UN Security Council for an unconditional return of the deportees—suspected for membership in the radical Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad organisations.

The men have been stuck in a no man's land in south Lebanon since December 17, with Lebanon and Israel refusing to take responsibility for them.

Fatah also called for "unity and understanding between Fatah and Islamic organisations, namely Hamas and the Islamic Jihad."

Tehran Said Not To Take U.S. Warnings Seriously

NC0501110293 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 4 Jan 93 p 10

[Text] Circles close to Tehran and to security sources that are knowledgeable about the file of the hostages who were detained in Lebanon say that recent U.S. statements concerning the U.S. hunt for the abductors and information about their moves in a bid to arrest them and bring them to trial are mere rhetoric to appease Western and U.S. public opinion.

According to these circles, Tehran has not taken the U.S. warnings seriously. Evidence of this is that the abductors and others involved in the hostage issue have not taken any precautions beyond those in place before Washington declared its intention to hunt down the abductors. Some of the abductors are still travelling from Iran to other countries, and some are still following their political careers inside and outside Iran, just as they did in the past.

The circles cite the following reasons to explain Tehran's failure to take the U.S. statements seriously:

First, Iran has documents and recordings of talks held with several people within the framework of the negotiations to close the hostage file and release them. Bringing these documents and tapes to the knowledge of the international public could cause embarrassment, if not political scandal, for those involved in the talks and those who backed them.

Second, Tehran is confident that Washington, had it been serious about arresting the abductors, would have followed a different course and eschewed public statements about collecting information on the abductors. Washington would have tried to carry out secret investigations to locate the abductors and then carry out sudden security operations to arrest or kill them.

The same circles say that Washington, publicly expressing its desire to arrest the abductors, possibly

wishes to keep the issue alive for use in regional crises. The circles believe Washington may decide to activate the issue later to create an international crisis for Iran similar to Libya's over the Lockerbie issue.

The circles note Tehran will not become another Libya or Iraq because it has many trump cards throughout the world. Faced with an international crisis, Iran will use these cards to hurt those who have instigated the crisis. Iran, the circles add, can make its adversaries suffer an international security crisis by unleashing a new wave of terror.

Third, Tehran believes the U.S. threat to collect information about the abductors and carry out investigations to arrest them is simply a way to disturb the course of certain Islamic movements. Washington is afraid these movements may use the current circumstances of the Balkan war and the increased repression of Islamists in the occupied Arab territories to engage in actions that aim to push the centers of international decisionmaking to alleviate the pressures facing the "Islamic tide" in the world.

Hizballah Faces Divisions Over Iranian Policies

NC0501110893 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 4 Jan 93 pp 24-25

[Excerpts] On the eve of "security day" in al-Biqa' and the army deployment in the suburb, the atmosphere within Hizballah was one of confusion. A well-informed source says this is due to opposition currents emerging within Hizballah that feed on several factors. Hizballah's current leadership did its best to prevent the state's security move from causing more divisions within Hizballah's ranks. The leadership attempted to establish stability within the party and obtain guarantees that the current moves do not aim to undermine Hizballah or the areas under its control.

What is happening within Hizballah? What internal divisions are simmering within it?

Observers speak of a heated debate within Hizballah over the new Iranian financial policy that began about two months ago and involved Tehran cutting its financial assistance to the party by half, according to some reports, or more, according to other reports.

According to the source, Hizballah's leadership pondered the recent Iranian financial measure and tried to gauge its dimensions, probe its motives, and ascertain whether the move involves long-term international and regional consequences. The main question, in Hizballah's mind, was whether Hizballah's value, as an asset in Lebanon, has ended for Iran.

Two opinions have been offered in Hizballah's ranks in answer to this question.

One, provided by the supporters of Hizballah leader Hasan Nasrallah, is that Iranian financial policy toward Hizballah has no political motivation. The reduction in funds, as interpreted by Nasrallah's followers, is merely an administrative measure inspired by Hizballah's institutes in Lebanon being able to meet most of Hizballah's financial needs. [passage omitted]

But many Hizballah members disagree with Nasrallah's followers in their assessment of Iran's new financial policy. Those members see a worrying sign in the changed Iranian policy, especially with the change occurring when Iranian foreign policy strongly supports Islamic movements abroad.

Advocates of this opinion do not see the Iranian measure as a sign of an Iranian desire to protect Hizballah's institutions. The same advocates believe that Hizballah's new leadership is moving the party off its fundamentalist and revolutionary course and turning it into a financial institution that deals pragmatically with political issues.

[Former Hizballah Secretary General] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, recently living in seclusion in Brital [in al-Biqa'], is a leading advocate of this view. Al-Tufayli opposed the Hizballah leadership decision to participate in the parliamentary election. Al-Tufayli's supporters see participation in the election as a sign of Hizballah's propensity to embark on a dangerous course of "liberalism," similar to that which was the undoing of Algeria's Islamists.

Al-Tufayli's opposition peaked when Hizballah's leadership agreed that Hizballah deputies take part in the semiweekly meeting of the Higher Shiite Islamic Council [HSIC], led by Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din.

Reports say that before Hizballah participated in the parliamentary election, Hizballah's main objective was to control the HSIC by holding an election for its chairmanship. Such an election would be possible if a fatwa [legal religious ruling] is obtained declaring [its missing current chairman] Imam Musa al-Sadr dead. If such a fatwa proved difficult to obtain, Hizballah could opt to elect the deputy chairman [currently Shaykh Shams-al-Din]. Al-Tufayli was Hizballah's favorite candidate to replace Shaykh Shams-al-Din.

But Hizballah's plan to control the HSIC was abandoned for two reasons:

One is that Hizballah became convinced that winning seats in the Chamber of Deputies is easier and better than waging a controversial battle to control the HSIC.

The other is that Hizballah's leadership discovered Iran does not want to see Shiite sources of authority developing in Lebanon. Iran wants to see the Lebanese Shiites dealing with the Iranian Embassy in Beirut as the sole and ultimate Shiite authority in Lebanon.

These are the two reasons that dashed al-Tufayli's hopes and intensified his opposition to the current leadership of Hizballah. Al-Tufayli's position is popular among the Hizballah rank and file.

There has been another source of opposition within Hizballah. A party security official displeased with the way Hizballah's leadership and Tehran are dealing with a family issue that concerns him reportedly feels that his family interests may be compromised because of political and financial deals concluded behind his back. Sources close to that official say he was almost confident the issue would be resolved by the beginning of 1993 but is now convinced it is not getting enough attention. There is widespread sympathy for this official among Hizballah members involved in the party's security activities. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Fadlallah Criticizes U.S. Stand

NC0201080093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the battle between us and our regional enemy—the Zionist entity—and our enemy in the world—the United States—is one of biting fingers ['add asabi']. His eminence said during yesterday's Friday sermon that it is illegitimate to reconcile or establish peace with the Zionist enemy, otherwise we would become servants and workers in the enemy's service. He said that the enemy wants to control the region's economy, security, and politics through peaceful settlement because it has failed to do so in war. 'Allamah Fadlallah mentioned the enemy's practices against Palestinians in the occupied territories—deportations, arrests, and killings—and the lack of opposition to these practices by the world, particularly the United States, which does not move a finger. He added that the United States wants to turn the deportees issue from a political to a humanitarian problem to dilute it and make this deportation process a prologue for further deportations. He said the United States' problem is that it supports the usurper entity in issues related to human rights and claims to defend these rights.

Amal Official Target of Assassination Attempt

NC0401070893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Husayn Balhas, the Amal Movement official in the south, was the target of an assassination attempt. He is the third Amal official to be targeted following the attempts against 'Ali Badr-al- Din and Habib Daqlaq.

Somali Islamic Movements, Motives of U.S. Viewed

NC0101182593 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 18 Dec 92 p 23

[Report by Ihab al-Mawla—all Somali names as published]

[Excerpts] Washington's military action in Somalia, with its estimated cost of $400 million, certainly is not purely a "humanitarian" operation. The United States has failed to intervene in other areas that are more tense and more painful from a humanitarian point of view, such as Bosnia-Hercegovina. The U.S. invasion of Somalia proceeds from a specific strategic and geopolitical facts and aims to achieve many things, notably stopping the spread of the Islamic trend in eastern Africa. We will discuss this in detail in this article. [passage omitted]

The domestic Somali scene recently has witnessed the emergence of the Islamic movement. The Islamists began to raise their thoughts and political plans distinctively, with some of their trends calling for the establishment of an Islamic state to end tribal disputes and lay down the foundations of a just and balanced Islamic society.

The "Somali Islamic Union Movement" [Harakat al-Ittihad al-Islami al-Sumali] is one of the most prominent Islamic organizations. It explicitly advocates the establishment of an Islamic state. The Islamic Union controls several regions in the country, including the cities of Luq and Balad Hawwa in the Ghadu region of southwestern Somalia. The Islamic Union also enjoys an important presence in northeastern Somalia, especially in the areas of Sinaj, Sul, and others.

The Islamic Union was formed in 1983 as a result of the merger of the "Islamic Group" [al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah] in southern Somalia, led by Shaykh Mahmud Issa, and the "Union of the Muslim Youths" [Wihdat al-Shabab al-Muslim; alternative translation: Unity of the Muslim Youths] led by Shaykh Ali Warsamah. The union began to appear in public in 1990.

Concerning political stances, the most prominent position taken by the Islamic Union is its rejection of the U.S. intervention and its announcement that it will confront it. Mohamed Uthman, one of the spokesmen for the union has said: "We reject the presence of international forces in Somalia, and we suspect the humanitarian motives of [UN Secretary General] Butrus Butrus-Ghali. We believe that this is a colonialist mission trying to use the starvation of the Somali people to Christianize them."

There is another Islamic trend represented by "The Islamic Movement in Somalia" [al-Harakah al-Islamiyah fi al-Sumal], which is an extension of the Islamic Brotherhood in Somalia, currently led by Shaykh Mohamed Ibrahim, who lives in Saudi Arabia. The movement was established in 1968, and like all Islamic movements, was subjected to sever oppression by the government of Siad Barre.

The Islamic Movement in Somalia was not involved in the internal fighting, and it is not giving priority to the establishment of an Islamic state. Bringing peace and saving the hungry and sick are the movement's main concerns.

Followers of the Islamic Movement are active in the fields of charity and social services. They have established such committees as "The Charitable Reform Committee" and "The Islamic Relief Committee."

Thus, the emergence of the Somali Islamic trend, added to other facts, was a source of obsession for the West and the United States. There was a genuine fear that Somalia might turn into an Islamic republic for the following reasons:

First, the growth of the Islamic trend in the country, its call for renunciation of tribalism—which is one of the main reasons for the collapse of Somalia—and its call for the establishment of an Islamic state. It should be noted here that there are no sectarian or religious problems between the Somali people because they all belong to the same Islamic doctrine, the Shafi'ite.

Second, the fact that the leadership of "Somaliland", which declared secession from Somalia, had some Islamic inclinations.

Third, the growth of the Islamic trends in Ethiopian-occupied Ogaden and the demand for independence.

Fourth, Sudan's clear military victory against [Sudanese People's Liberation Army leader John] Garang's groups, which Washington was using to wear out "fundamentalist" Sudan, as they term it, economically, humanly, and so on.

Fifth, Somalia's importance in propagating the Islamic message in the entire eastern Africa region. Over the past centuries, Somalia has been a strong barrier against successive Christianization and missionary work.

Sixth, Sudan's obvious interest in Somalia, its efforts to achieve national reconciliation in the country, and its rush to provide assistance and relief for the Somalis—something which OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim, who usually adopts negative positions on Sudan, has commended. Some explain the Sudanese assistance as "ideological", not humanitarian!

Thus, the West and the United States found that the best way to stop the spread of the Islamic movement in eastern Africa was to carry out an invasion under humanitarian pretexts. The aim is to besiege the Sudanese influence and control Somalia, which enjoys an extremely important strategic location. It overlooks the most important sea links and has the longest coast in Africa (3,330 km). Somalia is meant to be a strategic point used as a base for punishing the countries that "rebel" against the U.S. will, such as Sudan, or even Yemen. It also is meant to be a station for Christianization and missionary work in the region. [passage omitted]

Perhaps the Islamic movement in Somalia is the main obstacle to the U.S.-Western scheme, which is being implemented with the cooperation of some Arabs! But will the Islamists in Somalia be able to turn all the unjust equations upside down despite the formidable gap in the balance of power?

Talks Held With Visiting Qatari Minister

JN0501082393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Excerpts] An official round of talks was held in Damascus last night between a Syrian delegation led by Information Minister Muhammad Salman and a Qatari team led by Hamad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al- Kuwari, minister of information and culture. [passage omitted]

Salman and al-Kuwari both noted with satisfaction the friendly relations between the brotherly states Syria and Qatar. They were anxious to reinforce these ties in the interest of the two states and the Arab nation, the ministers said.

The two sides then reviewed the executive program of cooperation in media areas between the two brotherly countries.

Al-Asad Receives Call From Saudi Crown Prince

JN0201141893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Last night, President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi Crown Prince and first deputy prime minister. During the conversation, they discussed some Arab issues and bilateral matters.

TISHRIN Views 'Double Standard' in Peace Process

JN0201070593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN discusses the situation of Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories and the conditions of the Palestinian deportees, who have spent over two weeks amid difficult humanitarian circumstances.

TISHRIN says that the racist Israelis, who are currently waging campaigns of deportation, displacement, and annihilation, are convinced that they can wage their expansionist, settlement war without having to fear any punishment by the international community, which for a long time has turned a blind eye to Israel's massacres and crimes in the occupied Arab territories.

TISHRIN recalls the situation of over 3 million Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese refugees who are waiting in vain for a move by the international community to enforce its principles and charters and to return them to their lands. Some Palestinian refugees have been waiting for repatriation since 1948, and some Syrian and Lebanese refugees have been waiting for repatriation since 1967 or 1982.

TISHRIN says: By deporting en masse hundreds of Palestinians, most of whom are university professors, engineers, doctors, and scholars, including elderly and wounded deportees, the Israeli rulers have added a fresh crime to their black record.

TISHRIN adds that it is amazing and astonishing that the Israelis have justified their brutal, criminal action by claiming that they are interested in maintaining the peace process. This is as if peace is built on killing, deportation, displacement, and destruction, and not on terminating occupation and granting the Palestinian people their rights just like every other nation on earth.

TISHRIN affirms that the UN Security Council has been watching the tragedy for 15 days now, and that the UN envoy to the region has been subjected to Israeli extortion.

Concluding, the paper says: Definitely, the Middle East peace process will score no progress as long as the UN Security Council adopts a double standard and shirks its responsibility toward implementing its resolutions and extending protection to our kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories, who are resisting savagery, aggression, persecution, displacement, and ethnic cleansing.

Commentary on Responsibility for Israeli Deportees

JN0201155593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Israeli occupation authorities have admitted that the number of those deported by mistake to the barren area of occupied southern Lebanon has risen from 10 to 23 Palestinians. It is certain that the actual number of those deported by mistake is 415. In other words, everyone who is struggling against cold weather, wind, snow, hunger, thirst, and sickness and frankly and loudly announcing that he will not leave occupied southern lebanon except for his homeland, home, and family.

Rabin's Government deliberately escalated repression in the occupied Arab territories. This is especially so since the intifadah is escalating and since the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks is coordinating stands with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan and is refusing to be dragged into imaginary projects of administrative rule. Rabin decided to deal a strong blow to Palestinian steadfastness and to the peace process at the same time by arresting and exiling the most prominent cadres and figures in the occupied territories. However, the conspiracy was exposed and the magician's magic backfired on him. The Lebanese Government played an important and essential role in stripping the Israeli conspiracy and in exposing its dimensions and goals to the entire world. The Lebanese Government was able to fend off the Israeli aggression which targeted its sovereignty and was aimed at distorting its reputation and prestige. It was also able to affirm the Palestinian deportees' right to return to their homeland and families according to

international law, the Geneva conventions, and UN Security Council Resolution 799.

While Rabin frankly states everyday that he will not return a single Palestinian and that he will not allow the International Red Cross to extend humanitarian aid to the deportees, he tries to circumvent the decisive Lebanese stand by attempting to conclude a disgraceful deal which the Lebanese Government refused, in part and parcel, and insisted on holding Israel fully responsible.

Yesterday, Rabin emerged with a new stand. He said he may reduce the period of deportation from two years to nine months if the Palestinians pledge to stop the intifadah. Naturally, Rabin's call received unanimous rejection even by the deportees themselves. The intifadah will continue with utmost power until the occupation is removed, right is restored, and the Palestinians are able to excercise their freedom and to build their future.

The entire world, which is daily following on television screens scenes of Israeli repression, policies of breaking bones adopted by Rabin himself, and arrest and home search campaigns, asks along with the U.S. citizens, whether aid flowing into Israel is justified, especially since this aid is translated into shameful acts against human rights and into barbaric attacks on the Palestinians and Lebanese.

However, the rulers of Israel did not abandon their settlement and expansion schemes. Their terrorist policies failed to undermine the steadfastness of Arabs in the occupied territories. The recent deportation incident exposed to the world that the rulers of Israel do not hesitate to commit the ugliest and most horrible crimes to fulfill their ambitions and that countries that provide cover for and appease those rulers will soon become accomplices to this crime.

Hence, this led to UN Security Council Resolution 799, which was adopted unanimously and calls on Israel to return the deportees immediately and to secure their safety. However, the rulers of Israel, who have been used to violating international laws and UN resolutions since 1948, brushed aside the new resolution, and thus committed two real crimes. They defied international legitimacy and confronted the law of the United Nations with the law of the jungle. Moreover, contradicting the simplest bases of right, justice, and humanity, the rulers of Israel deprived the Palestinian deportees of water, food, and clothes and proudly announced in public that the death of these deportees does not raise Israel's sympathy.

The UN Security Council, which will continue to discuss Israel's refusal to implement UN Resolution 799, is being forced to live up, even just once, to its principles and charters. Israeli rebelliousness against international legitimacy went beyond all limits. The confrontation between the UN Security Council and Israel must take place sooner or later because Israeli defiance is escalating and could lead the region to the abyss and destroy the peace opportunities.

The UN Security Council can only regain its prestige and credibility and live up to its principles by taking a first step. All the current circumstances are in favor of such a first step. The Palestinian deportees, who are starving and dying from cold weather and sickness, have become the responsibility of the UN Security Council in light of Israel's rebelliousness.

Press Commentary on Rabin's Statement

JN0301084793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Press review]

[Excerpts] The commentaries of today's press focus on the issue of Palestinians deported by Israel from their land and kinfolk and on Yitzhaq Rabin's statements calling for halting the intifadah in return for taking back the deportees.

Under the headline "What Do Rabin's Statements on the Deportees and Peace Mean?" the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: During the past few days, Yitzhaq Rabin has made many statements about the deportees, the intifadah, and the peace process. He has offered to take the deportees back in return for a halt to the Palestinian intifadah.

AL-BA'TH indicates that the intifadah in the occupied homeland, basically, was not launched on a decision by a particular party. It emerged as an expression of the absolute rejection of our people in the occupied homeland of the Israeli occupation and of the need to resist it until every inch of the homeland's soil is liberated and until all rights have been restored.

The paper cites the deportees spokesman's reply to Yitzhaq Rabin's offer to take the deportees back in return for a halt to the intifadah. The spokesman said: Our continued deportation from our homeland and kinfolk will be fuel for our people's intifadah.

AL-BA'TH says: As for the peace process, Yitzhaq Rabin reiterated his predecessor's proposals. If this indicates anything, the paper says, it is that Israel does not wish to see peace established. The paper affirms that such statements and stands cannot serve the peace process. In fact, it adds, they are a new blow to the peace process, whose activation is an international demand.

Concluding its comment, AL-BA'TH says that it has become clear that Israel fabricates successive problems within the framework of its exposed attempts to impose a status quo policy on the Arabs and the world. [passage omitted]

On the same subject, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Yitzhaq Rabin's offer is worthless and will be received only with derision and disregard. In any case, nobody can take this offer seriously. This is because the intifadah is the lively expression of the Palestinian

people's determination to resist the Zionist occupiers and to offer sacrifices to attain their aspired national objectives.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that the intifadah cannot be subject to compromise irrespective of the various maneuvering and deception methods followed by Rabin and other Israeli leaders, who will not be able to halt the intifadah before it achieves the objectives for which it was launched and before the Palestinian people attain their full rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

AL-THAWRAH adds that the intifadah, having dug its roots deep into the consciences and hearts of the masses of the occupied territory, cannot be subject to Rabin's compromises and extortionist methods, neither will it accept his immoral offer.

The paper adds that the sight of the Palestinian deportees suffering in snowy conditions and whose lives are threatened by hunger, cold, and disease due to the scarcity of food and medicine, has placed the international community before the reality of the racist spirit controlling all Israeli institutions. This has also made all world states realize that Israel adopts a terrorist, brutal policy based on killing and starvation to achieve its aggressive objectives and ambitions.

Paper on 'Key' Iranian Role in Regional Stability

JN0501080693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Discussing Syrian-Iranian ties, AL-THAWRAH writes: As is evident from the course of developments, relations between Syria and Iran—in the political, economic, and cultural domains—are making steady progress. They are also developing common positions on Arab, regional, and international issues. The strong relations have been gaining strength, AL-THAWRAH points out, since the 1979 Iranian Revolution, and have been built on clear and firm foundations. The two countries have been coordinating on such issues as the security, stability, and the advancement of the Middle East. They are in agreement on the need to stand up to the Zionist belligerence and expansionist designs on Arab rights and territory, and the Zionist repressive measures in the occupied Arab territory. To counter this looming Zionist danger, all the countries of the region owe it to themselves to work out their disagreements and stay clear of creating new ones and whatever may raise marginal problems. This is because none of the Arab and Islamic countries, even outside of the region, will be spared the Zionist threat. The paper argues that, given its considerable manpower, material resources and strategic location, Iran, in Syria's opinion, has a key role to play in promoting the security, stability, and prosperity of the region through a network of distinctive and strong relations. Iran is also the key to consolidating a joint position to counter Zionist schemes against Arabs and Muslims and a continuing aggression against the rights of our Arab people, especially in the occupied Arab territories.

Afghanistan

Iranian Minister Meets With Mojahedin Officials

Notes Iran's Readiness To Help

LD3112143592 Tehran IRNA in English 1338 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 31, Irna—Iranian deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific affairs, Ala'eddin Borujerdi, discussed recent developments in Afghanistan in separate meetings with two senior mujahideen officials here today. On his meeting with secretary-general of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], Hojjat ol-Eslam Mazari, Borujerdi said Iran closely follows political developments in Afghanistan because of the importance it attaches to restoration of lasting peace and stability in the country. He expressed hope that political problems among the Afghan mujahideen groups would be settled with mutual understanding and negotiations to prevent recurrence of armed clashes and bloodshed in their homeland. The Iranian official added that the Islamic Republic respects any peaceful decision made by the mujahideen forces in line with its policy of non-intervention in Afghan internal affairs.

Mazari for his part said his party was opposed to any conflict or clashes, and believes that contrary to the narrow-minded policies of certain groups, most mujahideen leaders favour self-restraint in order to form a broad-based Islamic government. Monopolising of power and failure to pay attention to the realities of the Afghan society were the factors for war and conflict in Afghanistan both in the past and at present, he noted. The mujahideen leader hoped that Afghan groups would change their policies for the sake of national interests.

Later in the day, Borujerdi met with Afghan interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani, and expressed concern over the political developments in Afghanistan. Iran regards problems of Afghanistan as its own and is therefore sensitive towards the issue, he added. Borujerdi voiced Iran's readiness to help Afghanistan settle the existing problems.

Rabbani said in reply that his government has done its utmost to bring all groups together. He voiced his opposition to any bloodbath and conflict, and hopes for an immediate peaceful settlement of disputes among the mujahideen groups.

Further on Meetings With Leaders

LD0101140593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] The latest developments in Afghanistan and the most important regional and global issues were discussed at meetings in Kabul today between Ala'eddin Borujerdi, our country's deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania, and a number of Afghan officials.

At a meeting with Borujerdi, Afghan Foreign Minister Seyyed Soleyman Gilani thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts to help solve his country's political problems. He said: If the Resolution and Settlement Council [Showra-ye Hal va 'Aqd] had been formed under favorable circumstances, it would have been a great help in solving Afghanistan's current political problems.

According to our correspondent's report from Kabul, the latest developments in that country were discussed at a meeting between Mr. Borujerdi and Dr. Lafra'i, Afghan minister of state for foreign affairs. Lafra'i described the Resolution and Settlement Council as successful. He said: The council was formed on the basis of an approved framework and its results are satisfactory.

During his meetings with heads of Afghan mojahedin groups, Mr. Borujerdi also met and conferred with Mr. Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, the leader of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan [Mahaz-e Meli Eslami-ye Afghanistan]. At the meeting, he described Iran's viewpoints on Afghanistan's political issues, and expressed the hope that all mojahedin leaders will soon reach agreement on solving the current problems in Afghanistan. He added: As the Islamic Republic of Iran has sympathized with the problems of the Muslim people of Afghanistan throughout the 14-year jihad in that country and hosted more than 2 million Afghan refugees, it cannot remain indifferent to the problems of that country today.

At the meeting, the leader of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan thanked the Iranian Government for its continuing attention to Afghanistan's problems. He said: Afghanistan's problems will not be solved until all the Afghan mojahedin groups which took part in years of struggle participate in decision making, and while monopolistic tendencies prevail in this country.

He added: The situation in Afghanistan today is extremely sensitive. We are trying to get the various groups to solve Afghanistan's current problems through talks and concord. Otherwise, another war will threaten this country.

Rabbani Praises Iran's Help

LD0301172793 Tehran IRNA in English 1451 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 3, IRNA—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani today praised Iran's "sincere" efforts for settlement of Afghan problems, and said "we regard our bonds with Iran as eternal".

Rabbani in his meeting with visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, Ala'eddin Borujerdi, said the settlement of Afghanistan problems needed time and Kabul would welcome any kind of help from Tehran in this regard.

Rabbani, who last Wednesday [23 December] was reinstated as president for two more years by the controversial "Hal-o-Aqad" (National Settlement) Council, called for expansion of relations with Iran in all fields.

Borujerdi replied that securing of regional peace and stability was one of the important goals of Iran's foreign policy and the current efforts in Afghanistan were part of the same policy.

"Iran will not withhold assistance from the oppressed people of Afghanistan," he said, assuring speedy implementation of bilateral agreements.

It was the second meeting between the two officials over the past few days.

Borujerdi has met several Mojahedin leaders and senior Afghan officials including Foreign Minister Gilani and Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

Mojaddedi: Rabbani Appointment Illegal, Dangerous

LD3112144892 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Sibghatollah Mojaddedi, leader of the National Liberation Front [Jabha-ye Nejat-e Meli] of Afghanistan, described as a dangerous game the announcement of Rabbani as president. Sibghatollah Mojaddedi, former president of the Republic of Afghanistan and leader of the National Liberation Front of Afghanistan, during an interview with BBC radio, said that the convocation of the so-called Resolution and Settlement Council [Showra-ye Hal va 'Aqd], and the announcement of Rabbani through this Council as president for another two years, was an illegal and dangerous action.

Regarding this faked Council [Showra], Mojaddedi had earlier also clearly stated that it was not a Council of the people's representatives but was the Rabbani Council, and the nation will never accept its resolutions. Mojaddedi added that Rabbani has embarked on a very dangerous game that may lead to a destructive war, responsibility for which will rest with Rabbani.

Islamic Party Leader Congratulates Rabbani

LD0101163493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this afternoon met with Mowlawi Mohammad Yunes Khales [leader of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan] and esteemed Haji Din Mohammad.

At this meeting, esteemed Mowlawi Mohammad Yunes Khales and esteemed Haji Din Mohammad congratulated esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani on his election as president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. They prayed that Almighty God will bestow him further success in realizing the Islamic revolution's aspirations, and they expressed their solidarity with the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Council Members Selected for Parliament; Clashes

LD0401174293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Two hundred members of Aghanistan's Parliament have been selected from among the members of the Resolution and Settlement Council. The number of these representatives will eventually reach 270.

Meanwhile, clashes between the forces of Hekmatyar and those of Afghanistan's government resumed at midnight last night on the southern fronts in eastern Kabul. This is at a time when President Borhanoddin Rabbani has declared that he is ready to negotiate with Hekmatyar's forces and accept the membership of that party in the Afghan government.

Bangladesh

Government Orders Inquiry Into Jessore Killings

BK0501025093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] The government has ordered an immediate inquiry into the incidents of violence in Jessore yesterday, in which two persons died and some others were injured. The inquiry will be led by the Khulna divisional commissioner. The government has called upon the people to exercise restraint, and maintain peace and order.

A press note, issued by the Home Ministry in Dhaka last night, says two persons died and some others including policemen were injured during an encounter between police and a violent splinter group of the Long March processionists at a place near Laugani check post under Jhikargacha police station in Jessore yesterday. The press note said about 35,000 to 40,000 people participated in the program of Long March, protesting the unfortunate action of demolition of the Babri Mosque at Ayodhya in India, by the Hindu militants on the sixth of last month.

The march was brought out on the call given by the Long March Implementation Committee demanding the reconstruction of the mosque. These protestors, joining from different parts of the country, met in a procession and forced their way toward [the] India-Bangladesh border, breaking three barricades placed by the law enforcing agencies. They also defied the urging of the local administration and political leaders not to move further ahead. It further said, as the crowd crossed the third barricade at a place near Laugani check post, they faced obstruction from the police on duty.

A splinter group from among the processionists at a stage turned violent and attacked the police with ram dah [sharp weapon] and threw cocktails toward them, severely injuring [word indistinct] police, including the officer in charge of Sarsha and Jhikargacha police station. The police then resorted to lathi charge [baton charge] and used tear gas to disperse the unruly crowd. [Word indistinct] the police had to open fire in self defense. Two persons died and some others were injured during the encounter. The Long Marchers then retreated toward Jessore. The situation is now under control.

Party Urges Punishing Killers of Marchers

BK0501114693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1012 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 5 (AFP)—Bangladesh's major fundamentalist party Tuesday [5 January] demanded the punishment of those responsible for reportedly killing five people when police fired at a crowd attempting to march into India.

In a statement the Jamaat-e-Islami said, "severe punishment should be given to those responsible for killing the five ... We strongly condemn the incident."

It is unclear, however, how many people died when the "Long March," called by Bangladeshi Muslims so they could rebuild the Babri Mosque in the northern Indian city of Ayodhya razed by Hindu fanatics, was stopped after bursting through three road blocks.

Press reports Tuesday put the death toll at five. Earlier reports said three people were killed while a government statement late Monday said two.

It was also reported that Azizul Huq, the march leader, was among the 100 injured.

The Jamaat statement fiercely attacked the Indian Government, saying it too was to blame and that New Delhi should immediately allow Muslims to pray at the site of the 16th-century mosque in Ayodhya.

"If the Indian Government had a little respect for the Muslims hurt by the mosque demolition, it would immediately cancel permission for (Hindu) worship there and start rebuilding the mosque," it said.

The party said the issue should be raised at a two-day South Asian summit, postponed at India's request following the Ayodhya razing on December 6, and now due to open in Dhaka on January 13.

Witnesses said supporters of the Islami Chatra Shibir, the Jamaat's student wing, in a rally near the downtown national mosque called on Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to punish the killers of their comrades and said protests would continue until their demands were met.

"We want justice for the shaheeds (martyrs) who were marching to rebuild the ancient Babri Mosque," one leader said. Several Islamic groups also offered mass prayers following the rally for the dead.

The protest rally was held as organisers of the march called a nationwide mourning and protest day for those killed Monday. They also called a day-long general strike in the area of Jessore, western Bangladesh, where Monday's clashes occurred. Local residents said the strike was being partially followed.

The Bangladesh Government said an immediate enquiry had been ordered into the incident, but added that the police had fired in self-defence. It alleged that a splinter group from among the marchers had turned violent, attacking the police with swords and throwing Molotov cocktails, severely injuring 50 policemen.

Residents in Jessore, near the Indian border, said the tension prevailed in the area as some of the marchers had yet to leave the town.

The march, which had attracted between 25,000 and 40,000 people, had set out from Dhaka on Saturday on a 800-kilometre (500-mile) trek to Ayodhya with the avowed intention of rebuilding the mosque. Both Dhaka and New Delhi had said the marchers would not be allowed to cross the international border.

Bangladesh has officially condemned the razing of the mosque and repeatedly called on New Delhi to rebuild it. Hindus claim a temple to their warrior god Rama was on the site first.

Non-Muslim MP's Claim 12 Killed in Violence

BK0401162093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Eleven Bangladesh MP's have alleged that 12 people were killed and thousands of houses and places of worship of the minority community damaged in the aftermath of Ayodhya incidents. In a signed statement in Dhaka today, the non-Muslim MP's contradicted the Bangladesh Government's claim that no communal violence took place in the country. The signatories to the statement include Mr. Sudhanshu Shekhar Haldar, Awami League; Miss Pramod Manken, BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party]; Mr. Suranjit Sen Gupta, Ganotantrik Party; Mr. Paritosh Chakraborty, Jatiya Party.

UK Home Secretary Calls On Prime Minister

BK3112134692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Kenneth Clarke, visiting British home secretary, met with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in Dhaka today. The British minister briefed the prime minister on his talks on bilateral issues with Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, other ministers and senior officials. Clarke said that he was highly impressed by the restoration of democracy and the government's economic reforms program. He also held talks with the prime minister on the repatriation of Rohingya refugees.

[words indistinct] in the energy sector and use of aid. The British secretary conveyed Prime Minister John Major's invitation to Begum Zia to visit the United Kingdom.

Addressing a news conference in the capital this afternoon, Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke said this is his first such visit to Bangladesh. Describing the visit as excellent and useful, the UK secretary said that it will help in strengthening the existing relation between the two countries. He said the United Kingdom is eager to expand close cooperation with Bangladesh in various fields. The British secretary said he held talks with the home minister and the foreign minister on a wide range of political and economic issues of Bangladesh. He also stressed the need to curb drug trafficking in Bangladesh. In this context, the British secretary said a master plan has been devised for Bangladesh under the auspices of the United Nations and international donor countries including the United Kingdom are expected to provide financial aid for its implementation if it is accepted by the government of Bangladesh.

Opposition To Boycott President's Speech

BK0301033893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] In Bangladesh, main opposition parties have decided to boycott the president's inaugural address of the winter session of parliament beginning in Dhaka today. Talking to newsmen after a joint meeting of the parties, the chief opposition whip, Mr. Mohammed Nasim, said that the boycott is against the promulgation of certain ordinances, which he said, are aimed at curtailing the fundamental rights of the people. He said, they will take part in the proceedings of the house from tomorrow.

President Calls For Unity in Parliament Address

BK0301093493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0918 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] DHAKA, Jan 3 (AFP)—Bangladesh's parliament began its winter session here Sunday [3 January] with the main opposition groups staying away and President Abdur Rahman Biswas calling for unity to make the country's nascent democracy meaningful.

"A new struggle is necessary to make democracy and freedom meaningful to the countless millions," Rahman said. "This will be a struggle against all ills and evils including poverty, stagnation, illiteracy...and corruption," he said in his customary address to the New Year session of parliament.

In an oblique reference to the bitter row between the country's ruling and major opposition parties the president said, "we must be united irrespective of political opinion in our national interest as we did during all the critical hours of the past. In matters of ideology our opinion may differ, but national issues spare no chance for difference of opinion," Rahman said.

The major opposition Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed and Jatiya Party (JP) of deposed president Hussain Mohammad Ershad along with smaller allies stayed away from the brief opening session Sunday. However both indicated they would return to the house after it resumes its session January 17 after a two-week recess.

The groups have boycotted parliamentary proceedings since they walked out of last year's autumn session protesting the unilateral passage of an anti-terrorism bill by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

As MPs from BNP and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party, the third major opposition group in the 330-seat unicameral house, listened to the President, most JP MPs held an hour-long sit-in protest at a parliament lobby criticising the bill and the government's alleged crackdown on the party and its leaders.

At a nearby parliament room Sheikh Hasina chaired a meeting of her party MPs who called the bill a "black law," saying it could be abused by the BNP to suppress rivals. The BNP has dismissed these allegations as a ploy to arouse anti-government sentiment, and said the bill only provided for non-bailable arrest and speedy trials of crimes ranging from hijacking, to disruption of transport and harrassment of women.

At the end of Rahman's 24-page televised address, Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali adjourned the house until January 17 when he said it would hold a debate on the December 6 razing of an ancient Moslem mosque in the Indian town of Ayodhya by Hindu militants.

Dhaka Reports President's Address to Parliament

BK0301171893 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] President Abdur Rahman Biswas has called for commitment in establishing a proper parliamentary trend and tradition on the basis of tolerance and respect for other's opinion. He was addressing the inaugural sitting of the winter session of the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] in Dhaka today. He said the matters of ideology or opinion may differ, but national issues bear no chance for difference of opinion. Let this great Sangsad become the conjunction to establish national unity, he said. The president said this parliament is a living symbol of our tradition of democratic ideals and struggle as the basic spirit of the freedom movement was to establish a democratic social system. He said it is also the reflection of national consciousness, unity, and wisdom. President Biswas called for a new struggle for building the country against all odds and evils, including poverty, stagnation, illiteracy, affliction, unfairness, injustice, and corruption. The president said the nation is eagerly looking at

the members of parliament to give leadership to the new struggle for attaining development, progress, and prosperity.

Turning to the state of affairs in the country, President Biswas said a strong economy is the key to national progress and efforts continue to put the economy on a sound footing. The special programs undertaken to restore the economy devastated by autocracy have improved the country's economy this year than the year before. The target of growth for the current year has been put at 5 percent as against 3.9 percent last year. Inflation is all time low, foreign exchange reserve is over $180 crore which is over 82 perecent more than last year. The president said fiscal reforms have been yielding good results. Earning by the National Board of Revenue from different sectors of taxes and duties registered an increase of about 582 crore taka in the first five months of the current fiscal year.

He said priority has been given to agricultural development as Bangladesh is predominantly an agricultural country. Availability of agro-inputs, including credit, fertilizers, seed, and pesticides have been ensured. Measures have been taken to increase production of food and other crops and vegetables. A bumper crop of food was harvested this year which is expected to go over 1 crore 95 lakh tons.

Referring to the industrial policy of the government and industrialization of the country, the president said a liberal industrial policy is being implemented to create a competitive market, encourage local and foreign investments, and assist input substitutes and export-oriented industries in the country. He said the government has taken decision for the first time to declare a midterm jute policy to remove the accumulated problems in the jute sector. The aim of this policy is to produce jute in confirmity with the demand, improvement of quality, protect the interest of jute growers, diversify the use of jute, and preservation and expansion of jute goods market.

President Biswas has said highest importance has been laid on education as its one of the inputs to remove poverty and develop manpower resources. Primary education and mass education have been identified as priority area and primary education has been made compulsory. He said programs for development of youths and women have been taken to integrate them in the mainstream of development. Emphasis has also been put on manpower export to ease the unemployment problem. During the last fiscal year, a total of over 985,000 Bangladeshis went abroad on employment. The remittance by these people during the year was over 3,200 crore taka.

President Biswas recalled with deep reverance the patriotism and self-sacrifice of those leaders of our struggle for independence, freedom fighters and matyrs which have made our national existence a reality. The president ended his 52-minute address to the parliament repeating a clarion call by Shaheed [martyr] President Ziaur Rahman to rise above narrow party interests for national interest.

Earlier, the winter session of parliament began with recitation from the holy Koran. Speaker Sheikh Razak Ali was in the chair. At the beginning, the speaker nominated a five-member panel of chairmen who will preside over the house during the absense of both the speaker and the deputy speaker. The members are: Dr. Abu Moeen Khan, Mohammad Ziaur Rahman, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Begum Khurshid Jahan Haq, Dr. A.K.M. Ajjad. The house unanimously adopted condolence resolutions on the death of five eminent personalities of the country who passed away after the last session of parliament. They are: Member of Parliament Alhaj Halimul Rashid Mullah, former Minister of State Syed Altaf Hussain, former Provincial Minister Nasiruddin Ahmed Chowdhury, former Member of Provincial Assembly Mohammad Ahdul Hai, and eminent journalist Alhaj Shamsul Huda. Another resolution on those killed following the Babri mosque incident in India was also adopted unanimously.

One minute silence was observed and munajat [prayer] offered in the house for the salvation of the departed souls. The munajat was led by Maulana Mohammad Obaidul Haq.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Ghulam Hafiz laid before the house four ordinances as per article 93-2 of the Constitution. The ordinances are: The Bangladesh Shilparin Sangstha Amendment Ordiance, the Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council Second Amendment Ordiance, the Khagrachari Hill District Local Government Council Second Amendment Ordinance and the Bandarban Hill District Local Government Council Second Amendment Ordinance 1992. On demand from the members, the speaker informed the house that a debate on Babri mosque issue will be held on the first sitting when the house meets later. The house will meet again at 1600 in the afternoon on Sunday, the 17th of this month.

Our parliamentary representatives say the two-hour long first day sitting of the winter session today was mainly devoted to the president's address. A section of the opposition members belonging to Awami League, Jatiya Party, Ganotantrik Party, JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal], and NAP [National Awami Party] did not attend the first day's sitting. CPB [Communist Party of Bangladesh] members walked out of the house as the president began his address. However, Jamaat-i-Islami, Islami Oikya Jote, and NDP [National Democratic Party] members attended besides the ruling BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] members.

India

Minister Unveils Plot To Demolish Babri Mosque

BK0201133793 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 19 Dec 92 p 1

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 12 Dec.—Rajesh Pilot, minister of state for communications, informed the Lok Sabha yesterday that Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh [RSS] activists obtained training for a month from a retired military officer to demolish the Babri mosque. Participating in the debate on the no-confidence motion moved by the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] against the Narasimha Rao government, which continued in the Lok Sabha for the second day yesterday, Rajesh Pilot said:

The BJP's claim that the demolition of the mosque was not preplanned, but was an instant act of a few thousand emotionally-charged volunteers, is not true. The RSS, Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council—VHP] and Bajrang Dal activists were under the training of a retired brigadier general to demolish the mosque. A rehearsal and intensive training for the demolition were held for a month at Sarhaj village near Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh. One hundred activists took part in the training. The brigadier general imparted on them step-by-step training to break the police cordon around the mosque and enter the premises, to cross the barbed wire fencing, to climb over the mosque and rapidly demolish it, and to remove the debris from the site.

Rajesh Pilot mentioned the name of the brigadier general in the house. As the BJP members of parliament [MP's] objected to this, the speaker ruled that only the name of the brigadier general be removed from the agenda.

Vinnay Katiyar, Bajrang Dal leader and the BJP MP, was supervising the training every now and then. The training began last September 5 and concluded on October 6. Speaking at a ceremony to mark the end of training, Katiyar asked the participants to demonstrate their skills at the kar seva [voluntary service for temple construction] which would be held in Ayodhya within two months. Some RSS and VHP dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

Although the kar seva was scheduled to be held on 6 December, volunteers started arriving in Ayodhya by the end of November. The volunteers who were trained to demolish the mosque also arrived there. They were addressed by Swamy Vamadev, chairman of the Ayodhya Temple Coordination Committee. The volunteers then pledged not to return without demolishing the mosque, whatever the duration of the kar seva. Despite this, BJP leader Vajpayee tried to conceal the truth. Newspapers have published photographs showing party president Murli Manohar Joshi and MP Uma Bharati all smiles during the demolition of the mosque. Videos also show that the Uttar Pradesh police as well the RSS activists did nothing to stop the mob from surging to demolish the mosque. The BJP chief ministers know the names and addresses of the volunteers who went to Ayodhya to demolish the mosque. The party itself had reserved train tickets for some of them. The videos also depict some of the BJP MP's making encouraging statements when the activists were tearing down the structure. Therefore, although the government cannot disown its responsibility for failing to protect the structure, the BJP also cannot deny its part in the destruction. [passage omitted]

Parties Denounce Demand for Surrender of Mosques

BK0201161593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] The Janata Dal, CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], and Forward Bloc today denounced Swami Vamadev for demanding surrender of Jama Masjid [mosque] of Delhi along with mosques at Mathura and Varanasi. In a joint statement issued by the leaders of these parties in New Delhi today, they warned that if this type of propaganda is not curbed firmly, the communal situation in the country may go out of hand. They also appealed to those who want India to remain united to fight such antinational elements and their activities.

The Samajwadi Janata Party says the government should make efforts for a negotiated settlement of the Ayodhya dispute even at this stage. In a statement, the party general secretary, Mr. Kamal Murarka, said in New Delhi today that the proposed one-point reference to the Supreme Court regarding the disputed structure will serve its purpose, if the communities concerned abide by the verdict.

Home Ministry Working on Ayodhya White Paper

BK0201162193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, today indicated that a meeting of the interstate council of chief ministers will be held soon to discuss Article 356 of the Constitution [for imposition of president's rule in a state] to remove lacuna in it. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, he also said that the Home Ministry is working on the details of the White Paper regarding the developments relating to the Ayodhya dispute and the destruction of the disputed structure. The White Paper will give sequence of various events connected with the issue. Asked why there was so much of a delay in the promulgation of the ordinance on the acquisition of land in Ayodhya, Mr. Chavan said that the issue needs careful consideration because of several legal aspects involved.

Commentary Calls Bangladeshi March 'Fiasco'

BK0501071093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Commentary by H.S. Rao of PTI]

[Text] The ill-conceived, eight kilometer march to Ayodhya by fundamentalist Muslims of Bangladesh ended in a fiasco yesterday, after clashes and police firing which left at least five dead and more than a hundred injured. The marchers gave up the futile attempt only after repeated clashes with the police leading to unnecessary bloodshed and heightened tension. The march was called off near Jessore, twenty kilometers away from the Indo-Bangladesh border.

India had cautioned Bangladesh that there is no question of permitting any violation of its border by Bangladeshi citizens. It stated that it is the Bangladesh Government's responsibility to prevent any illegal border crossing by its citizens. India had also put its border security personnel on an alert. While the demolition of the disputed structure in Ayodhya has been condemned by one and all, Bangladeshi Muslims had no business even to think of starting such a march, which was nothing but an unacceptable interference in India's internal affairs.

India's sentiments were aptly expressed by a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry who said "whatever be the emotional motivations behind the march, it is bound to heighten tensions all around." In fact, that is precisely what happened. Thousands of fundamentalist Muslims threw caution to the wind and overcame three police barricades and clashed with the Bangladeshi paramilitary personnel and police. The march ended after the police opened fire, in which five persons were killed and more than one hundred injured. This could have been avoided had sanity and good sense prevailed over the marchers. The march was called off after representatives of the marchers held discussions with the Bangladesh minister for social welfare and women's affairs, Mr. Tariqul Islam, and the minister of state for religious affairs, Mr. Abdul Mannan, in Jessore.

Five valuable lives have already been lost owing to the obduracy of the fundamentalist marchers. The consequences, would have been disastrous if they had proceeded with the march and tried to cross the Indian border, where the Indian security forces were on alert to thwart any such attempt.

BJP Hails Government Handling of March

BK0501133893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has hailed the government's firm stand on the march by Bangladeshi nationals to Ayodhya. Briefing newspersons in New Delhi today, the party vice president, Mr. Sundar Singh Bhandari, said the government has also done well by refusing to reduce its consular staff in Karachi. He said good-neighborliness is possible only on the basis of international norms. The party demanded a judicial inquiry into (?Mewat) incidents.

King of Bhutan Arrives on Visit; Agreement Signed

BK0401163693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] India and Bhutan today signed a memorandum of understanding for preparing a project report for the Sankosh multipurpose project. The scheme envisages construction of two power stations with a total capacity of 1,525 megwatts. The agreement was signed by secretary of the Water Resources Ministry, Dr. C.D. Sathe, and the ambassador of Bhutan, Desho Karma Letho, in New Delhi today in the presence of the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the visiting King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan.

Earlier, the king called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] and both the leaders discussed matters of mutual interest. On arrival this morning, the king of Bhutan was given a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

President, King Discuss Ties

BK0501043893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] India and Bhutan have reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen their economic cooperation for the common good of the people of the two countries. Speaking at a banquet in honor of the King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of Bhutan in New Delhi, the president said there is an unprecedented scope for cooperation in building up economies in the region. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma said that India always considers it a privilege to be associated with Bhutan's advancement into the age of science and technology. Responding to the sentiment expressed by Dr. Sharma, the Bhutanese king said relationship of the two countries demonstrated that a large and powerful country like India and a small country like Bhutan can exist as good neighbors and in perfect peace.

Meets Defense Minister, Others

BK0501145893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] The visiting King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan had meetings with several ministers in New Delhi today to discuss bilateral relations. Those who met him included Defense Minister Mr. Sharad Pawar; the human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh; the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; and the minister of state for power, Mr. Kalpnath Rai. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, also had a meeting with him. Later in the evening, the king of Bhutan had discussions with the vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, who reiterated India's continued commitment to Bhutan's economic development. The

prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, hosted a luncheon in honor of the visiting dignitary.

Chavan Confers With Visiting UK Home Secretary

BK0401145693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] India has asked Britain to take concerted action to stop flow of funds to terrorists through havala [transfer of money by illegal means] transactions. The home minister, Mr. Chavan, made the request during his talks with the visiting British home secretary, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, in New Delhi today. The wide-ranging talks covered cooperation in curbing terrorism and lasted 50 minutes. The two leaders also reviewed the progress in the implementation of bilateral treaties on extradition as also confiscation of the assets of terrorists and drug peddlers. Mr. Chavan also reported [as heard] to the exploitation of British asylum laws by immigrants engaged in terrorist activities to overstay in that country and collect funds. The British home secretary agreed to look into the matter.

UK's Clarke Calls Meetings 'Very Useful'

BK0501134893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] The visiting British home secretary, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, says that his government will take up with Islamabad the issue of drug trafficking, as there is a strong link between narcotics trade, gun smuggling, and financing of terrorism in India. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today at the end of his four-day visit to India, Mr. Clarke said that he will ask Pakistani authorities to take strict action against drug trafficking. He said that his meetings with the Indian leaders, including the prime minister and home minister, were very useful.

Rao, French Defense Minister Discuss Ties

BK0101064493 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] The visiting French defense minister, Mr. Pierre Joxe, today called on the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narashima Rao, in New Delhi. Mr. Rao and the French defense minister discussed the liberalized economic policies in the country and bilateral cooperation in the field of defense. They also discussed other matters of mutual interest.

BJP Denies Workers Involved in Minister Attack

BK0401150493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has denied that its workers were involved in any attack on the union minister, Mr. Madhav Rao Scindia. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party vice president, Mr. Sundar Singh Bhandari, however, condemned the incident. He said his party workers were at the railway station to welcome those who were returning after meeting the BJP leaders now lodged at Mata Tila in Uttar Pradesh. Mr. Bhandari denied that his party workers had any knowledge of Mr. Scindia traveling in the train involved in the incident.

Over 10,000 Hindu, Sikh Refugees Flee Afghanistan

BK0101025693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0118 GMT 1 Jan 93

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 1 (AFP)—Thousands of Afghan Hindus and Sikhs are pouring into India alleging persecution by the mojahedin in one of the biggest influxes of refugees from Afghanistan since the war there erupted more than a decade ago.

More than 10,000 reached New Delhi between July and early December, travelling through Pakistan. The hard-pressed office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) here says it is unable to cope with the rush.

"The whole system is going to break down, very, very soon," said a top official of the UNHCR, which has already registered some 3,000 Hindus and Sikhs as refugees and is processing the applications of more than 5,000 others.

The official said more Hindu and Sikh Afghans were on their way to India.

"They are still coming through," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity. He estimated that their number would reach about 20,000—or nearly half the Hindu-Sikh population of Afghanistan—by June 1993.

The refugees, many of whom have never visited India before and speak Pushtu better than Hindi or Punjabi, alleged that they were targets of the Afghan mojahedin because they were not Moslems.

"We are here because of the lawlessness in Kabul," said Gurbux Singh, a middle-aged Sikh trader from Kabul. "We are sick and tired of being there."

"We have lost everything we had," added Ghanshyam Ghai, 25, a Hindu.

Other Hindus and Sikhs waiting outside the small UNHCR office here said their problems began after the fall in April of Soviet-backed president Najibollah and the coming to power of the Moslem fundamentalist mojahedin.

Since then, the refugees said, roving guerrilla bands had terrorised the Hindu and Sikh community in Kabul and elsewhere, killing them and attacking and looting their property.

"Many got killed. Many were wounded," Gurbux Singh said. "(It was) a time when we could not even step out of our homes. But when they started to kidnap our women, we decided to call it quits."

Thousands of Afghans have sought refuge in India over the years. Many still live in New Delhi and other cities, while others have moved over to the West seeking greener pastures. Until now the refugees rarely included Sikhs and Hindus.

The UNHCR here was receiving 100-150 Afghans a month seeking refugee status until June 1992. In July, Sikhs and Hindus began overshadowing the Afghan Moslems, sending the total shooting up to 1,602.

Between July 1 and December 11, some 8,805 Afghans knocked at the UNHCR's doors, putting its limited staff, including the four legal officers who interview the applicants, under great strain.

The number of later arrivals, almost all Sikhs and Hindus, may be higher because not all refugees seek help from the UNHCR, officials said.

Until June, an Afghan—or any other potential refugee—coming to the UNHCR was asked to come within one month for an interview. Now the waiting time has been increased to four months.

Meanwhile, the Hindus and Sikhs are trying their best to make both ends meet. Many live on charity, and hundreds are put up in makeshift tents near a Sikh shrine which also provides them with food.

Uttam Chand, a Hindu, said it was impossible to rent a house in New Delhi. "When we go house hunting, the owners ask what we do for a living. When we tell them we are refugees, they shoo us away."

Chand sells vegetables in the Indian capital. Rajesh Kumar, 24, another Hindu, said he had a prosperous electrical business in Kabul. "Now I must think twice before buying a cup of tea."

The UNHCR says while it has enough money on its hands, it is getting snowed under by applications and is increasingly finding it tough to pursue individual claims for education and medical benefits.

"We are heading towards a crisis," the official said. "We are doing what we can. We are not slowing down. But the regulations take time."

He said the UNHCR was pressing New Delhi to intervene and permit agencies such as the Red Cross to take care of the health needs of the refugees.

He said the UNHCR was pressing New Delhi to intervene and permit agencies like the Red Cross to take care of the health needs of the refugees, scores of who have been reduced to penury since fleeing Afghanistan.

The refugees are bitter that they are not receiving any special treatment in a country their forefathers hailed from.

"Nobody is bothered," said a young Sikh woman who said her husband was a soldier in the Afghan Army and was killed after the fall of Najibullah. "We are being made to fend for ourselves."

V.P. Singh Rules Out Alliance With Congress-I

BK0501100493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] The Janata Dal has ruled out a tie-up with the Congress-I on an anti-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] program. In an interview to PTI, the Janata Dal leader, Mr. V.P. Singh, has remarked that both the Congress-I and the BJP are two sides of the same coin. He said both the parties will split on the pressure from what he called social forces unleashed by his party's campaign for social justice. Mr. Singh said he does not foresee early parliamentary elections as the Congress-I will manage to survive for the time being with the help of the Janata Dal-A [Ajit Singh faction] and other smaller groups.

Janata Dal's Political Resolution Reported

BK0401151493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] The Janata Dal has resolved to have full participation in the campaign and programs of the 11-party secular front to fight communalism. In the political resolution adopted at the two-day meeting of the national executive of the party, it asked the party workers to take up the people's grievances for redressal in cooperation with the left parties and the constituents of the National Front. Briefing newspersons in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. Harikishore Singh, said the party will intensify its agitation demanding implementation of the Mandal Commission Report. The resolution says the Janata Dal will also take up the question of comprehensive agricultural policy and revive its struggle on the issue of fertilizer prices and remunerative prices for agricultural products.

Iran

PGCC Summit Statement Called 'Irresponsible'

LD3112131392 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA—Less than a week since the Abu Dhabi summit of the 6-nation Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [PGCC] came out with an "irresponsible" statement, diplomatic sources in Cairo announced that a joint Egyptian-Syrian delegation is to visit the southern Persian Gulf states to study implementation of the Damascus declaration for what they like to call security arrangements in the Persian Gulf.

The [word indistinct] declaration was signed in the aftermath of the 1991 Persian Gulf war against Iraq, between outsiders Egypt and Syria on one hand and the six Persian Gulf states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman on the other.

Over the past year, PGCC member states have been on a massive arms purchase spree, concluding separate defence and military pacts with Western countries and buying up billions of dollars worth of modern weaponry, for which, as political experts point out, they neither have the experience nor the need.

The statement of the Abu Dhabi summit was ill-advised and was issued at a time when the Muslim world is passing through a crucial phase, and when the arch-enemy Israel has uprooted and left hundreds of Palestinians in the freezing cold of the Lebanese border without even the basic necessities.

The statement, moreover, totally ignored the principle of good neighbourly relations and non-interference in the internal affairs of their northern neighbour, Iran.

By doing so the PGCC has stepped on a path, which is interpreted by Iran as "the heartfelt desire of global powers."

Some diplomatic experts in the region believe that the statement was groundwork for the so-called 'Arab security plan' in the Persian Gulf. A provocative plan which was not primarily welcomed and its implementation needed an impetus.

The Egyptian-Syrian 'security arrangement' as claimed by the PGCC, has been raised at a time when Iran strongly dominates the entire northern half of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, as well as the Strait of Hormuz, and attaches prime significance to regional security.

Therefore, any security plan for the Persian Gulf region with outsiders involved, is doomed to fail in Iran's absence, as all countries even European states have pointed out.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has frequently announced its readiness for lasting stability and tranquility in the Persian Gulf with full-fledged cooperation and mutual trust with regional states.

Iran's rational and principled stand against the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait is in turn a good example to prove its goodwill and peace-seeking tendencies.

Outlining Iran's foreign policy, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has stressed that the country, adhering to the principles of the Islamic revolution and its constitution, gives priority to cooperation with regional and neighbouring countries.

Arab states of the region should have realized that any outside power present in security arrangements for the Persian Gulf would pursue its own vested interests.

The PGCC, as evident from its latest statement, has in fact acted in line with the aspirations of those who are seeking to fan the flames of instability and insecurity in the region, and thereby find an opportunity to materialize their sinister objectives.

In parts, the statement is fully compatible with the objectives of the U.S. and some Western countries against the Muslim world.

Some political circles in the region have termed the recent move by the PGCC as an "unwise and irrational" measure given the Israeli expulsion of 417 Palestinians and the Zionist affront to relevant U.N. resolutions.

The attitude the West has adopted against Palestinian and Bosnian Muslims by its baseless resolutions against the Serbs and the Zionists even while admitting their crimes, and its crackdown on countries such as Iraq and Somalia, are all indications to the fact that the West is merely taking steps towards materialization of its vested interests.

An Arab diplomat who wished to remain anonymous, said that at a time when Israel had illegally expelled over 400 Palestinians, the PGCC by raising the issue of the Iranian island of Abu Musa intended to distract public opinion from the major issues of the Muslim world.

The diplomat stressed that it would have been better if the PGCC heads of state had exerted utmost efforts on the U.N. for enforcing Security Council Resolution 799 which calls for the return of the deported Palestinians to their homeland.

PGCC member states would be well advised to be cautious of their decisions and moves, because the world Muslims are closely monitoring their behaviours and would make their own judgements.

Deputy Minister Comments on Visit to Turkey

LD0101214293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, first deputy foreign minister, said that the crises that existed in relations between Iran and Turkey resulted from foreign interference. During an interview with IRNA at the end of his four-day visit to Turkey, Mr. Besharati said that Turkey made mistakes during the past year in its relations with Iran, and that it is trying to rectify them. He described the release of the Cape Maleas as a positive step in relations between the two countries, saying: It is doubtful that such a problem will arise in the future relations of the two countries.

During the interview, the first deputy foreign minister pointed to Iran's objection regarding the imbalance in

trade between the two countries, and said that he held negotiations with Turkish officials in order to solve this problem. At the same time, he expressed the view that the economic system of this country must be more careful and active in this matter.

Mr. Besharati returned to Tehran this afternoon.

Jannati Delivers Friday Prayers 1 Jan

LD0101224993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Friday prayer sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, member of the Assembly of Experts and Ayatollah Khamene'i's representative for Bosnia-Hercegovina affairs, at Tehran University on 1 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Now the West and the East are following a God-cleansing path [khat-e khoda zoda'i]. The defeated Soviet Union, which was ruined, has once again established an anti-Islamic front in those independent republics. Once again Muslims are under a great deal of pressure, a pressure which perhaps is not so different from what existed before, and is probably even worse in some aspects.

You have heard that some Muslims have left Tajikistan and have gone to Afghanistan because they could no longer stay in their towns. That country is no longer a place to live. They had to escape. When they saw people escaping in such a manner, they closed their path. Now no one can escape. They have to suffer and live with it.

The same thing is going on in Nakhichevan and the other Muslim-inhabited Republics. They have girded their loins for hostility against Muslims. I do not understand what advantage they gained from their 70 years of antireligious policies; once again, this time defeated, they are renewing the same policy.

The case of the West is clear. It has girded its loins to destroy any sign of religion. That is the case in Bosnia-Hercegovina, which is on the horns of a dilemma: division or surrender. So far there has been talk of division. The UN secretary general has spoken every now and then of division, but it seems that their policies have also changed and that they are no longer satisfied with division. Surrender is now on the table, and so is the issue of the annihilation of Muslims, and not only in Bosnia-Hercegovina but also in other places.

Indeed the situation is becoming very threatening and complicated. If they want to interfere; they interfere against Muslims. If they decide not to interfere, they do so when it is against Muslims. The enemy is fundamentally hostile.

One issue that the Muslim people are concerned about is that if they interfere they will sever links between those Muslim-inhabited countries which are neighbors and close to each other, so that if there are troubles in one area, others cannot go and help them. They will also do other things if they go there. Their presence there is detrimental.

If anything is to be done for the tyrannized people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, they should be allowed to defend themselves. They do not need foreign intervention. They do not need American intervention. They themselves say they do not want a Bosnia that is going to be liberated by America. [crowd chants: "God is the greatest," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Down with those opposing the rule of the Supreme Jurisconsult," "Death to America," "Death to Israel," "Islam is victorious," "America is doomed to annihilation."]

God willing, if that is what God wants. Very well, that is the situation in Bosnia. Now the situation of Muslims has somewhat improved. But I am confident that if one day the enemy sees that Muslims are progressing a little, then it will strengthen the Serbs to suppress them. That is, to take them back to where they were, once again under siege. They are in a very bad situation, and may God—for the sake of the innocent kin of the prophet and all the sincere and tyrannized servants of God Almighty—put an end to the tyranny of the Serbs against Muslims.

Then again we have the Palestine problem with its circumstances, as you know. They have expelled more than four hundred thinkers, clerics, doctors, engineers, lecturers, and teachers—most of them are from these fields—and are holding them there in the winter cold. They have no proper food facilities, no proper hygiene, no proper medical treatment, and no proper housing to protect themselves against cold. They are there in that condition. Apparently there are nearly 120 clerics among them, the scholars, clerics, and congregational prayer leaders who used to explain God's laws to them. This is too much for them.

Then there is the situation in Somalia. They have established a presence there and their presence is definitely to the loss of Muslims. This is certain in principle. But as to what plan they have, what policy they have, what decision they intend to make regarding the administration there, and what havoc are they going to wreak on the people there, we do not know in detail. What is certain is that they are enemies who have entered the home of Muslims. As per usual, they have no goodwill. That is the situation there.

And the Indian incident! The Babri mosque issue, and principally the policy of Islam-cleansing [Eslam zoda'i] which has prevailed in the government for years and is being endorsed from outside as well. Those are problems that we have there, the internal clashes in Afghanistan and various other problems. Anyway, we are faced with those problems. Islam has those problems. Well, what do they want now? What do they want to do? Algeria is the same; it has the same problem. Egypt is the same. Nothing, the issue is that there should be no Islam!

We are going through a hard period. Muslims are going through a hard period. They are slapping Islam. But we will not forget one sentence. History has shown us that, Islam has taught us that the hard periods, the hard, bitter periods will be followed by relief. The black night is followed by day. [passage omitted]

Those who survive the fighting, the homelessness, and hardships become strong, solid, and resistant individuals who can give their enemies a hard punch in the mouth. [crowd chants: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to Israel," "Death to America," "Death to the hypocrites."]

That is God's tradition on earth, throughout history. War against God will not be victorious, and they are fighting God. For one thing, they used to raise the issue of Shiism and war against Shiism. That war is not yet finished. They used to raise the issue of Iran for a while and they are raising it again and again now, trying to magnify the threats posed by Iran to scare its neighbors, to scare the world really, not neighbors. Egypt, for example, too, is told to start shouting that Iran is interfering there. They say the same about Algeria, that Iran is involved there; they say the same about Sudan, that Iran is doing this or that.

The matter will not end here, however. The issue is the issue of Islam, wherever it may be. Even when there is no possibility of Iranian involvement, even if there is not a single Iranian in sight, it is enough for them to see Islam showing signs of life somewhere for them to take a stand against it and try to suppress it.

But it is a historical and divine tradition that war against God does not have a good outcome. It yields no results other than defeat. In the end, the future belongs to believers and Islam will be victorious. The only difference between us and them is that they only look at today; we look at tomorrow and we accept the bitterness of today for the sweetness of tomorrow.

As we saw in Iran itself. During a brief period, we faced countless problems. Then we saw the enemy's [reference to the shah] defeat, the fall of the regime, and the establishment of an Islamic government. That is the way it is throughout the world. However, here things reached their ultimate conclusion quickly because it is a limited area. But there, it is a question of the entire world and over 1 billion Muslims. It is obvious that, in the second case, more time must elapse and greater problems must be overcome. But the ultimate result is clear and we have no doubts.

Let me give the good news, here and now, to all Muslims, wherever they may be: Final victory is yours. God is with you. Do not be afraid. Endure the current difficulties. Endure them for the sake of God. [passage omitted]

Another issue I should talk about in the remainder of the time is that, well, the conditions are hard anyway for the whole of the Muslim world, including us. We have our own problems too. We are also facing certain reconstruction problems, disruptions, and conspiracies. In these conditions, our people and authorities must deal with the issues with awareness. Following haphazard policies and dealing with issues feebly would have bitter consequences. Even if we did not have any enemies and problems, indifference and weakness by themselves would have made our future black, but we are facing problems from all sides as well.

If this system, this revolution, and this Islam is to survive, it should stand on three principles. The first is spiritual dimension and Islamic criteria. That should be preserved to the full. It is the basis of our work. It is the biggest pillar of our system. The second is the issue of supreme jurisconsult within the context of implementing and realizing Islam and the interests of Muslims and defending the realm of Islam and the honor of Muslims. The third is the constitution.

It is those three great principles on which the system stands. If any of them is damaged, our situation would change; there would be no revolution left for us; and even if a system called the Islamic Republic were to remain, it would be in name only, not in essence. I do not think anybody would argue with that general point.

I draw the attention of the Majles to certain points. This Majles is in its first year. There are many new deputies and there are some old ones. The situation of the Majles is as you know. The Majles has been formed in this way. If the Majles wishes to serve, if the people are not to end up dissatisfied with it, be sorry for voting for it, and be thankful to the Majles, the Majles must open its eyes and deal with the issues responsibly, including the issue of the budget bill which is in progress now. [passage omitted]

If the Majles is careless, or weak, or underestimates, or if it concerns itself with peripheral matters and forgets about the main issue, I say to the Majles that next year the people will hold you answerable. Be careful. There are certain points in the budget this year, which are different to the past. The issue of a single parity exchange rate will have major effects on the society.

There are also other points such as revenues and expenditures. You should find able, Muslim, knowledgeable, and sympathetic advisers from among the people, economic brains outside the Majles, and those in the Majles who are familiar with the subject—there are few because not everyone is knowledgeable about everything, and economic issues are extremely complicated—and sit together and see whether the estimated revenues will come about or not. If it is not clear, be cautious and not set expenditures in proportion to it.

They should learn from the past. They should consider this year, the year 71 [1991-92], and see how much of the estimated revenues were realized? If a portion of the estimated revenues was not realized, why wasn't it? Who made the wrong forecasts? Why were they not careful and why did they estimate the revenues at that level so

that the expenses were increased. And some people based their expenditure on the estimated revenues. Then the revenues realized were less than predicted, the expenditures remained the same, and there were difficulties. The Majles should study expenditures.

I would like to devote, God willing, one or two sermons to the issue of the public treasury [beyt ol-mal]. What is the meaning of treasury? We ought to understand that every dirham and rial of the treasury is calculated. When the budget is formulated, each organization wants to get a bit more for itself. All right, we assume that they do not have any bad intentions, but is this right? Is it right that we are constantly thinking of absorbing more money? From where? From the waters of the sea? Or from deprived areas whose inhabitants are living under hard conditions?

Sometimes taxes are collected from those who are in need of a portion of zakat [Islamic income tax]. How is this to be calculated? Majles: Why are you not looking at this? Be careful, look at the details of each cost. If you see that a certain cost is not necessary, then get rid of it, for God's sake. The Constitution gives you this right, and the Constitution must be implemented. You must read Articles 53, 54 and 55 of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

I call on the gentlemen who are assessing the budget to note that our biggest problem is education and training. How much is allocated to education? I am talking about education and training. The people must be educated; their religion, ethics, piety, purity responsibilities, self-confidence, and human qualities must be strengthened. They must grow. How much has been allocated to this in the budget? Cut the waste! As the Guardian Council, we have not yet wanted to examine the details and say: What is this cost? What is that cost? This is your duty, the duty of the Majles.

Let me repeat: If there are, God forbid, shortfalls regarding the issue of foreign currency, which is one our problems, if there are shortfalls regarding the rial, which is our second problem, if there are shortfalls in income and expenditure, you will owe a lot of people a lot of money next year. Take care, you are going through a difficult phase. [passage omitted]

Many people who have given their views on the budget bill do not have the necessary credentials. They are not aware of these issues, they are not experts on these issues. Well, to a certain extent....[pauses] They have certain responsibilities and that has led to this. I know that most Majles deputies do not have the required expertise in this field. We cannot just say: Well, this is a fault of the Majles, this is the way the Majles is; everyone knows a certain field, but not everything.

I do not want to offend the Majles, the Majles is honored. But there are economic experts in the Majles. They must invite and sit with caring, unbiased, and revolutionary economic experts from among the people, assess these issues correctly, and formulate a budget so that when this budget is implemented next year, the difficulties, problems, dangers, and waves that are caused by the budget are reduced to a minimum. This is our duty; we are all responsible. Let me stress once again: Honor the Constitution. [passage omitted]

The Comptroller's Office must become active. It must constantly follow up the question of how money is being spent by [government] machinery. We receive so many reports about ostentation. Why is this taking place? Why are they spending excessively? Do they think no one will notice? Do they think, because we have enemies, we will not say anything? No. We do have enemies and we will teach them a lesson. We are standing up to our enemies. Our unity is safe. We have no quarrels among ourselves; we have no disputes. The problems that exist in other countries do not exist here. This is friendly criticism.

I am not talking about that type of person who, wishing to carve out a career for himself, criticizes this or that government department. I do not think that is the correct thing to do. I think it is wrong. But sympathetic advice, well-intentioned advice, fraternal and responsible advice, I think that is necessary. It is to the nation's advantage, to the advantage of the people and the government, to the advantage of the Majles, Islam, and the revolution.

Be careful, dear and honorable Majles, for whom we all voted. We all stand by our votes. Come and see if the expenditures made during the current year—and there are many complaints about excessive and unwarranted spending in some government departments, not in all—see if the complaints are justified. If they are justified, follow them up. Ask them why. Carry out your duties in this regard. Do what the Constitution asks you to do. Do what the people expect you to do.

Then there are other necessary activities, on education, on the people's beliefs, on revolutionary matters. Bear these in mind too. In a word, no one is exempt from responsibility before God, especially in the current circumstances. As I said, the destiny of Islam depends on intelligent and wise actions here, under this system. If the enemy succeeds, by any means, in creating problems here, it will have damaged things at the very root. Then confronting Muslims in Egypt will be easy; confronting Algerian Muslims will be easy; Israel will become secure; those people who are inclined toward compromise will find it much easier to compromise, and those who did not wish to compromise will surrender, per force. All the issues in different countries will be dealt with.

The fact that they are doing so much, without any justification, to magnify Iran as a threat to various neighboring and nonneighboring countries is because they are thinking this: If we inflict a blow on it there [in Iran], we will have an easy time of it everywhere else; all the others will learn their lesson.

Well, when a nation has to play a determining role for over 1 billion Muslims and, in a way, for all of humanity and for future generations, can the men and women of

that nation deal superficially and halfheartedly with issues? Can they refrain from giving the required importance to the future of the system, the revolution, the people, and Islam? Can they do that? This is why the person who is in a position of responsibility must carry out his work carefully and the person who does not have legal responsibility of that kind must be vigilant. Well, people must be vigilant and watchful. If they see any shortcomings, they must say so. That would be an act of goodwill toward all Muslims. It is a duty. Islam has asked people to be vigilant and to act responsibly. [passage omitted]

When officials know that the people, the watchful eyes of the people are constantly on them, they will mind what they do and be careful.

In any case, we have many problems. The clergy must act with care. There are other issues in this regard. There is the issue of ossification. Ossification is one of the problems faced by the Islamic Republic. It must be dealt with very wisely. There are some people who, if they are allowed to, will inflict great damage on Islam in the name of the sanctities, of religion, the Koran, the Hadith, God and the Prophet. Attention must be given to this problem as well. Scholars, professors, our great ulema must watch matters carefully and with full vigilance and give the necessary advice. I want to express profound gratitude to the eminent leader, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. [crowd chants]

He is following the issue with utmost alertness and meticulousness. But let's not burden him with all the tasks. Why should he intervene when a Hezbollahi, a Muslim, an enjoiner of virtue and prohibitor of vice is badly treated? This is truly a problem. When he sees that someone's right is being violated he per force intervenes, but why should we busy him with such things? Why should we not free him to think about fundamental and international issues? How much time has anyone to deal with such details!

Let the judiciary be careful, and the law enforcement establishment be careful! Muslim and Hezbollahi kids, the enjoiners of virtue and prohibitors of vice are the apples of our eyes. They are the arm of Islam, the arm of the revolution! They are the ones who come forward and report about overspending in a place, about where they are creating pomp and ceremony, where they are ordering expensive furniture. [passage omitted] The Hezbollahi must be appreciated; they must be encouraged. They should not instead be decided on when a report about them reaches somewhere.

O God! We have no one but you for succor and support! For the sake of Mohammad's scion, do not forsake us. [passage omitted]

Energy Minister Comments on Energy Shortage

LD0201234493 Tehran IRNA in English 1842 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Rasht (Gilan), Jan. 2, IRNA—Energy Minister Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh said here today that during the first eight months of the current calendar year (March 21-Nov 21) Iran had an energy shortage of 0.5 per cent which was one-third for the same period last year.

He said during the current year rls [rials] 500 bn had been expended for water development projects and that for the time being 20 dams are being built at various parts of Iran.

The energy minister added that feasibility studies on Astor dam in Gilan province had been completed and noted that another feasibility studies on Polrud dam in Rudsar had started.

He said to prevent encroaching seawaters the two Caspian littoral provinces of Gilan and Mazanmdaran had been alloted rls two bn, over and above the previous credits.

A pipe manufacturing plant was inaugurated here in the presence of the energy minister. An official of the plant said that it had been closed down because of the wear and tear of its machinery and the damage it suffered in an earthquake in June 1990.

The plant manufacutures various categories of pipe for water and sewage system.

Need for 'More Dynamism' in Diplomacy Seen

NC0201142793 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 17 Dec 92 pp 1,10

[Unattributed commentary: "Iran's Diplomacy—The Need for Greater Dynamism"]

[Text] The scenario for isolating Iran on the international relations scene and creating controversies and coldness in Iran's relations with Islamic countries constitutes one of the basic and important policies that has become the main pivot of the Zionist regime's covert activities during the past months. A glance at all the coordinated steps that have been taken shows that by making certain problems—such as the Salman Rushdie incident, the assassination of people like Bakhtiar and Sharafkandi, other concocted problems such as Iran's role in the Egyptian and Algerian crises as well as the Abu Musa issue—the pivot of their activities, the Zionists and United States are strongly striving to make Iran's international and regional relations vulnerable and isolate it on the international scene. Undoubtedly this is an important problem that cannot be confronted merely by propaganda.

Why is our diplomacy incapable of activating the government under such sensitive conditions? So far we have faced similar conditions many times. Definitely our

enemies' coordinated political, propaganda, and diplomatic efforts are an effective element in the emergence of these conditions. Another important reason, however, may also be our weakness to correctly foresee and assess such problems. Undoubtedly the silence, absence of reaction, the wait to see what time will bring, and sluggishness cannot be logical and correct policies. More dynamism should be injected into our diplomacy and active efforts be made to uncover these policies and reverse processes.

Hasn't the time come for a basic change in the structure of our diplomacy? The truth is that in the world today we should use various means to preserve our stances. At the time, when we optimistically regarded Galindo Pohl's first report and paved the grounds for his return to Iran, we should have also considered the possibility that his ensuing report may have been a means to place us under pressure. Have we just now come to realize that human rights are merely a political tool? Have we forgotten historic experiences so easily?

These naiveties have yielded destructive results for us until now. Months before Pohl submitted his report wasn't there the feeling that these processes are all aimed at weakening our rights on the international scene? Shouldn't we have decreased these pressures by active diplomatic steps? It is sometimes argued that the onslaught and pressures on Iran have been so extensive during the past months that such steps cannot be deterrent, but this argument is unrealistic. If our diplomatic steps could have foreseen these incidents, we would have definitely acted with a more correct assessment to mitigate the pressures.

For a powerful presence in international relations, tools should be used correctly. Unfortunately, under sensitive conditions so far we have been able to do so, but it is not the time to complain. What is important is that by a correct assessment of the problems we should at least set foot on a course that will help us to be more active in the future. An assessment of our diplomacy is very important and if this is achieved correctly, logically, and without any commotion, it will be a strong backbone for the continuation of our powerful presence on the scene of international and regional relations. We are a system that wants to have an effective global presence while maintaining our independence. Fortunately, Iran's strategic position and our strong place among nations have granted us the potential. We should make the best use of our position. Any negligence will be tantamount to neglecting national and Islamic interests.

Commentary on Rabbani Election as Afghan President

LD3112154992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1054 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The Resolution and Settlement Council of Afghanistan yesterday elected Borhanoddin Rabbani as president of that country for a period of two years. [passage omitted]

His appointment has taken place at a time when, according to reports, five of the existing nine parties have boycotted the Resolution and Settlement Council because they disagree with its composition. They have called for renewed elections of the members of that council, under the supervision of a commission made up of all the mojahedin groups and parties.

Political analysts think that the election of Rabbani as Afghanistan's president can be regarded as a new chapter in that country's history, especially since in this round the president's term of office has been set for two years. This two-year period could definitely provide a good opportunity to bring about some order in the chaotic political, social, and economic situation of Afghanistan.

In view of the 14-year war and the bloody clashes of the past six months, Afghanistan is going through difficult political and economic conditions, not least because clashes between rival mojahedin groups have brought many material and human losses to that country. Under such circumstances, Mr. Rabbani, as the new president, should try and overcome these problems. It seems that if Rabbani is to succeed in carrying out his duties, he should adopt certain measures which ensure that the rights of all mojahedin groups and parties are observed. So long as these groups and parties—both Sunnis and Shiites—are to be left without a role to play in the future government of Afghanistan, notably in the power structure of that country, no hopes can be entertained about the restoration of stability and tranquillity in that country.

The experience of the past government over several months showed that, when inadequate attention was paid to the rights of some of the groups, the interim government failed to administer the country successfully. If this state of affairs is repeated, a renewed occurrence of past events can be expected. This is definitely not in the interest of either the people of Aghanistan or any one of the mojahedin groups.

Commentary Views U.S. Troops, Situation in Yemen

LD0301052993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Unattributed commentary: "Yemen and a Criticism of Foreign Military Presence"]

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, leader of the Islamic Party in Yemen, has in an interview criticized the extension of facilities in Aden to the U.S. troops participating in the Somalian operations. He stressed: Excuses of the government officials in justification of the

grant of such facilities are not convincing. Had the U.S. forces gone directly to Mogadishu, they would not have faced any problem.

Critical comments of 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, who heads a reforms assembly, have come at a time when—in the wake of a number explosions in the two hotels of Aden where the U.S. troops were staying—the American militarymen have unexpectedly left that country. It appears that the presence of U.S. troops in Aden, and use of logistical facilities by them in Yemen for undertaking relief and military operations in Somalia, should be construed as a shift in that country's foreign policy. This move, in consideration of the constraints faced by the Yemen Government at regional and international levels, can somehow be justified. However, these decisions have come across opposition domestically, thus adding to the problems confronted by Yemen at home.

During the past few months, following the Yemen Government's decision to delay for five months the parliamentary elections—which were set for last November—that country has been swept by a series of strikes and protest rallies by the anti-government groups and organizations. In the midst, the National Coalition Congress, which is composed of 10 opposition parties and 22 unions and organizations, has been responsible for organizing various groups opposed to the government. The coalition, which is inspired by national-Islamic inclinations, believes that postponement of the elections by the Government of Yemen in fact points to its real objectives, which aimed at prolonging the present transitional period. Also, the economic problems which are being faced by the country, especially since the termination of the oil war in the Persian Gulf and which include the rising inflation rate and growing unemployment, have put the Yemenis under pressure. These issues have been instrumental in escalating the opposition to the government.

Last week Sanaa was the scene of biggest demonstration by the anti-government forces since the reunification of the two Yemens in 1991. In the course of a three-day gathering attended by over 100,000 people in the capital of Yemen, the leaders of the various Islamic groups called for the establishment of an Islamic government in the country and for eradication of poverty in the society. According to reports, the participants, while discussing various issues, also pointed to the failure of the current transitional government to properly forge unity among the existing forces. On the contrary, the government officials in Yemen believe that even though the trend of internal developments in the country over the past few months has been aimed at protesting against economic issues and constraints, they attribute it to certain foreign elements. They contended that the process of reunification of the northern and southern parts of Yemen and the advantages arising out of it will definitely erase concern in the region and consequently the foreign enemies are endeavoring to create some major obstacles on its way.

* Exchange Rate Standardization in Question

93AS0342K London KEYHAN in Persian 17 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] Although Hashemi-Rafsanjani, several cabinet ministers, the chief of the Central Bank and the chief of the Plan and Budget Organization have said that by the end of the Five-Year Plan (in about eight months) the foreign exchange rate will certainly be standardized, for several weeks there has been talk of delaying this standardization, mostly from the Majles.

This last 16 Azar [7 Dec] in a talk with Tehran University Students, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Majles, said in this regard that the Majles Economics Commission and the Majles Plan and Budget Commission "have held many meetings on this and we gave Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani 25 questions, and following that the members of the two commissions and several members of the Majles Speaker's Council met with the president of the republic, and we achieved good results."

He said: "It was decided that with regard to basic goods, drugs and defense items we would act as we have done in past years. This was a view that the Majles proposed and was welcomed by the president of the republic. Therefore, the prices on these goods will not increase."

It appears from remarks made by the speaker of the Majles that the two-or three-tiered foreign exchange prices will remain the same and that the same seven-toman-per-dollar rate will continue to be used for imports of "basic goods," which have not been specified, as well as for drugs and defense items.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs announced that this year the foreign exchange budget will not be given to the Majles. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said that the foreign exchange needs of each ministry or government organization will be calculated on the basis of the 100-toman dollar and given to them in rials to meet their import needs. However, from what the Majles speaker has said, it appears that at least these rules will not cover the ministries and government organizations who import "basic goods," medicine or defense goods. Yet most of the nation's foreign exchange revenues are used to import "basic goods," medicine and defense goods (estimates put this figure at between $6 and $7 billion per year).

On the other hand, at a meeting at a Tehran mosque attended by Dari Najafabadi, chief of the Majles Plan and Budget Commission and Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, chief of the Central Bank, Dari Najafabadi said that "in the near future" it will not be practical to standardize the foreign exchange rate, and that this is a gradual process that will take two to three years. However Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli said nothing at that meeting in support of Dari Najafabadi. He spoke only of the advantages of standardizing foreign exchange for the economy of Iran.

All reports indicate that standardizing the foreign exchange rate, which is one of the government's declared

and definite policies, has now become a source of conflict between the government and the Majles, and the government, which had intended to do this merely by issuing a decision and without passing a bill through the Majles, now finds itself in need of Majles approval.

Pakistan

India Again Asked To Reduce Consulate Staff

BK0401143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar M. Khan, called in the Indian high commissioner, Mr. S.K. Lamba, and reaffirmed the government's decision to scale down personnel of the Indian Consulate General in Karachi from 62 to 20.

Editorial Calls Ayodhya Court Verdict Biased

BK0401144793 Karachi DAWN in English 3 Jan 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Ayodhya: a Biased Verdict"]

[Text] Trouble is brewing again in Ayodhya. Not that matters had been settled after the demolition of the Babri Masjid by Hindu militants on Dec 6. The happenings of that fateful day had opened a new chapter on this explosure controversy in Hindu-Muslim relations. But thereafter, the central goverment in New Delhi appeared to be gaining a grip—even if a tenuous one—on the situation. Now the Allahabad High Court has come out with a judgment that will reverse this process of conciliation. It will prove to be no less than a spark in the tinder box. The court has allowed Hindu devotees to worship at the site of the demolished mosque where an idol of Ram has been installed in contravention of the Indian Supreme Court order to maintain the status quo.

The Allahabad court's decision not only lacks a proper appreciation of the gravity of the communal situation in India today. It also smacks of an unabashed bias in favour of Hindu fanaticism which seeks to achieve its revivalist designs at Ayodhya, no matter at what cost. Nearly 12,000 people have already died in India in the aftermath of the shameful incident of the Babri Masjid demolition. Communal tensions still run high. If matters have not gone entirely out of hand, it is largely because Prime Minister Narasimha Rao acted firmly—though belatedly—to contain the aftereffects of the Ayodhya tragedy. He dismissed the BJP government in Lucknow for its partisan role in the Babri Mosque affair and sealed the mosque site until the Supreme Court gave its verdict in the case.

It is obvious that if the Hindus are allowed to worship at the Babri Masjid site, the Muslims will understandably react by asserting their right to offer prayers as well. This has already happened, when the local administration in Ayodhya last week allowed some Hindu worshippers to conduct their rituals at a distance from the idol. Even though this facility was withdrawn the following day, the Muslims promptly announced their plan to congregate at the mosque. They were stopped by force and now a new wave of communal riots has taken India in its grip. If following the Allahabad court judgement the Hindus are allowed to pray at their makeshift temple at the controversial site in Ayodhya, it would open up the possibility of widespread Hindu-Muslim bloodbath in India.

It is time India heeded the few voices of sanity that can still be heard in that country. At a time when communal passions are running high, anything that carries the slightest risk of provoking Hindu-Muslim violence must be avoided at all cost. In the Babri Masjid context, this means that for the time being the status quo should be strictly maintained. Mr Narasimha Rao's government seems resolved to do precisely this. But where doubt arises is its failure to rein in the UP [Uttar Pradesh] administration and courts which seem deeply influenced by Hindu revivalist thinking—after all, they functioned for quite a while under the BJP state government and appear to have imbibed that party's political philosophy and obscurantist values. Hence it is quite possible that at that level they would try to pander to the fundamentalism of the Hindu militants. This they must not be allowed to do. The Congress-I government in New Delhi must act firmly and seek to mobilise secular opinion covering a large part of the country's political spectrum to counter the revivalists. India's survival as a multiracial and multi-religious political entity depends crucially on the success of such a move.

Daily Seeks National Consensus on Nuclear Program

BK0101152993 Lahore JANG in Urdu 29 Dec 92 p 10

[Editorial: "Nuclear Program—The Measure To Counter Mounting Pressure"]

[Text] The report that the United States has decided not to declare Pakistan a terrorist state is a matter of satisfaction. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, the minister of state for foreign affairs, is said to have confirmed the fact that the U.S. Government has informed Islamabad that Pakistan's name will not be included in the list of terrorist states to be submitted to the Congress by the U.S. President on 31 December. Even though Pakistan's ambassador to the United States has declined to confirm or deny the abovementioned report, saying that the newspersons should contact the Foreign Office in this regard, we feel that the report about the appropriate U.S. decision will prove to be correct.

The United States has been threatening for a long time to declare Pakistan a terrorist state on the pretext of Islamabad's "guiltless crime" of supporting the Kashmiri freedom fighters, but, there was, actually, no justification for such a U.S. move. It is a matter of satisfaction that ultimately Washington appears to have realized that its attitude was inappropriate and unjustified.

But, the U.S. has not been pressuring Pakistan due to the above reason alone. It has stopped its economic and military aid for the past 27 months on the pretext that Washington is not fully satisfied with Pakistan's nuclear program. Since the middle of 1990, Pakistan has been trying to convince the United States that its nuclear program does not come under the purview of the Pressler Amendment, that Pakistan definitely possesses the capability to manufacture nuclear weapons, but it does not have any bomb. The U.S. President can easily certify that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear device, thus ensuring resumption of aid to Pakistan. But, thus far, the U.S. administration has not been found ready to accept our pleas and continues to deny aid to us. Apart from this, there are also indications that the United States may further increase its pressure in connection with our nuclear program.

Japan makes its own decisions, but as a member of the G-7, it has to abide by the five conditions laid down by the group for the provision of aid. One of these conditions relates to the nuclear program of the aid-seeking country. The most important reason why the agreement for a $400-million aid was not signed during the prime minister's recent visit to Japan was that Japan wants to hold further discussions on Pakistan's nuclear program. The newspaper "THE NEWS" has already published a special report that Senators Pressler and John Glenn are preparing another draft legislation which, if approved, may lead to the imposition of more stringent restrictions on aid to Pakistan. Therefore, all indications and factors lead us to believe that the pressure on Pakistan in connection with its nuclear program is definitely going to further intensify and become harsher.

Pakistan's stand on the nuclear issue is weighty, appropriate, and justified and we do not consider Washington's fears or objections as correct. But this thinking cannot change the fact that the United States is strictly adhering to its stand and is not ready to make it flexible. How are we going to overcome this difficulty or obstruction? It is clear that by sticking to our stand on nuclear issue, we cannot expect any major U.S. and, for that matter, Western aid. Under these circumstances, we have two choices in front of us—compromise on our nuclear program and/or quit hoping for aid and be ready for more stringent pressures. We do not want to adopt the first path because our national interests do not allow us to do so. The second path is also fraught with difficulties and complexities. We desire cooperation and assistance from the United States and the Western countries in the defense, technical and technological fields, but prospects of achieving this cooperation are becoming bleaker day by day. We understand that this is a very difficult and serious situation and as a nation we should evolve our strategy and preferences on this issue after thorough consideration and adopt a national stand, ensuring that we are ready to face its implications, and which is accepted and supported by all sides in the national political arena. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said even today that we should have remained firm on our position of March-April 1990—a position that could neither affect our capability nor lead to the stoppage of aid. Her opinion may be disputable, but it is after all an opinion. She has claimed that whatever [Foreign Secretary] Shaharyar had stated in his famous statement and interview in Washington about Pakistan's nuclear program, she has not exceeded that limit in her interview with NBC. Now, the situation is that even after Shaharyar's clarifications, the United States did not resume aid to us nor is it ready to do so now. We are also not ready to change our stand because there are real fears about further increase in U.S. and Western pressure.

It has been reported today that the permanent members of the UN Security Council are establishing an organization which will take fresh steps to force potential nuclear powers, including Pakistan, to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. In view of this, we think that we should consider new measures to further strengthen and demonstrate our national consensus in connection with our nuclear program. One of the steps to consider ways to counter the Western pressure will be to convene a closed-door session of parliament or a close-door all-party round table conference which should reaffirm a policy of national consensus after considering all aspects of the situation, so as to prepare the nation and the government of Pakistan to face future pressure tactics and to make it known to the world that the Pakistani nation maintains a consensus stand on the nuclear question and any attempt to divert it from that stand cannot succeed. The apprehensions expressed by Ms. Benazir Bhutto that if Pakistan tried to manufacture a nuclear bomb, the forces opposing it will not only blow up its nuclear installations but also dismember the country may be an exaggeration. Our claim is that we have neither manufactured a nuclear bomb nor intend to do so; but, apparently, the United States has not accepted our stand and thus stopped aid to us. If Pakistan reiterates its stand at the national level, then the Pakistani people and the outside world will become aware of it and we will be more prepared psychologically to face the pressures that are likely to come. We are standing at a decisive stage and we have to reiterate once again our stand after consideration at the national level. One benefit of this national consensus will be that no one will raise even a partially dissenting voice on the issue again.

Lists of Nuclear Installations Exchanged With India

BK0401153993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan and India have exchanged lists of their nuclear installations and facilities for the second consecutive year. A Foreign Office statement in Islamabad today said that the exchange of lists was carried out simultaneously in Islamabad and New Delhi as stipulated in the Pakistan-India agreement on nonaggression on each other's nuclear installations.

Kashmir Media Reveals Indian Agency Bid To Crush Uprising

BK0201143893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, Shiv Sena, the political arm of the Indian intelligence agency, RAW [Research and Analysis Wing], has been further beefed up to sabotage Kashmir jehad. According to KMS [Kashmir Media Service], Shiv Sena has set up seven centers in the capital Srinagar and two centers in Jammu region for abduction, looting, killing, and other terrorist activities. Mujahidin have launched a vigorous strategy to frustrate this new Indian design. In Shalimar area of Srinagar, mujahidin attacked a military contingent, killing one soldier and injuring another. One mujahid embraced martyrdom in the action. In Nathipura, a military vehicle was blasted with grenade attack, but casualties were not known. Mujahidin also clashed with Indian troops in Shupian, Doda, and Bhadarwah, killing and injuring several soldiers.

Sharif Says Offer of Talks to Opposition PDA Sincere

BK0401115293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said that the offer of dialogue by him to the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] is based on sincerity and an honorable and acceptable mode of negotiations could be adopted. Talking to newsmen in the parliament house today, the prime minister said the government had fulfilled its responsibility and had extended to the PDA an open offer of dialogue. He said he was not reluctant to have negotiations with the PDA. The invitation of negotiations, he added, was not an attempt to get a political mileage. When asked if the government would like to have one-to-one dialogue, the prime minister said any respectable and acceptable mode of talks would be opted for.

President Congratulates Afghanistan's Rabbani

BK0301144093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has congratulated Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani on his election as president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. In a message, the president prayed that Afghan leaders intensify their efforts for national reconciliation to find unity and stability in their country which is the need of the hour. He said the government and people of Pakistan will continue to give their complete support for national reconstruction of Afghanistan and for the progress and prosperity of the brotherly Afghan people.